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HARMONY The contest guests

MULRONEY'S GLAMOUR, MANNING'S REEF

The Ukrainian community recently paid tribute to Brian Mulroney in the ballroom of Ottawa's Fairmont Chateau Laurier for making Canada the first Western country in years ago to recognize Ukraine's independence. When Ukrainian artists asked their Oscars were unable to find the traditional Ukrainian bread he needed for the head table in Ottawa, he called Future Bakery in Toronto and had a loaf shipped. The baker who made it was **Rossana Wronowesky**, father of Toronto Liberal MP **Ross Wronowesky**, the owner of Future Bakery, who was also at the Mulroney dinner.

The presence of the former PM's wife, the glamorous **Mila Mulroney**, who kept getting asked by press for her autograph, reminded the capital that there was a time when political dignitaries actually influenced styles as opposed to being styled.

Across the hall from the Mulroney booth was Premier Manning at a dinner honouring the first graduation of the Manning Centre's certificate program in political management. The same TV networks spent their time in the Mulroney dinner—CPAC had live coverage at the Manning event. The Mulroney dinner also had the better mix of event, a Mulroney address and some well-crafted film segments, the Manning dinner served up

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON MILA MAGIC, THE NDP'S STYLIST AND BATTLE OF THE BABIES

the tradition of dancing the winner's hockey jersey to another level by suggesting the mayor of the losing city shave his head.

But the Manning event had more cool guests and definitely the better MC. Ever since leaving the environment portfolio, **Ross Ambrose** has unleashed her sense of humour and some leotardies—that night she wore Kenneth Cole leopard print footie with a blood-red head. At the dinner, Ambrose noted that both she and Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien make Ottawa politicians "I wonder if people focus on your hair too?" she asked to the Knapik crowd.

the tradition of dancing the winner's hockey jersey to another level by suggesting the mayor of the losing city shave his head. **Ravenhill**, who up to then did not know the Ottawa mayor is bald, almost agreed.

NDP CAUCUS TO BE STYLISH BY 2010

July's **Wayfuta-Lee** is the Winnipeg NDP MP who made a formal parliamentary request of the government forcing it to reveal within 45 days the costs of **Stephen Harper's** personal stylist **Michelle Mawani** (who once said her undernourished black eyes had one).

"Wayfuta-Lee admits that, 'If I don't wear hat or don't see your picture could detract from your message,' but admits that 'any body who has good media communications people should be able to get [fishnet] advice.' So who is the NDP's sartorial sage? Enter NDP press secretary **Ken Capstick**. 'We've got the most stylish New Democratic caucus in Parliament's history [but] I'd say [three-quarters] of my caucus that I would love to share a few pants a ride and bring up the ante on a few suits and accessories their colour



MILA MULRONEY and the head-table bread

comes. I'm about 75 per cent there and it's only been three years since I've been with the NDP. So give me another three and we should have everyone looking like **Belinda**. Mark your calendars: the 2010 NDP Fall Collection will be gaudyboots.

JUSTIN TRUDEAU VERSUS GRANDMA?

Liberal candidate hopeful for the Montreal riding of Papineau, **Justin Trudeau**, finally met his potential political foe, **Bloc MP Vivian Barbot**, in the flesh. The duo told Barbot he had heard great things about her. By the second time they overheard at a mingling event, he was greeting her with kisses. If Trudeau ends up running against Barbot it will be a tough fight. Even if the election can be held off until after October 14, when Justin Trudeau will have his newborn baby in his computer screen, Barbot has already beaten him to the baby punch. She just became a grandmother to little **Ulrich Lynxhauer**. ■

ON THE RED: If you know Ottawa well, you'll see that **Michelle Raphael** is not **Michelle Raphael**. michelle Raphael.com



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHELLE RAPHAEL

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Knowledge 2.0 – the next level...

Canadian companies face global challenges to improve productivity



In the global economy, Canada's competitive advantage has to come from generating processes that advance our thinking faster than the rest of the world. Competition demands that Canadian companies create dynamic work environments that are financially successful and retain strong workers who share their business intelligence. Our challenge is to implement systems that advance productivity in a knowledge economy. We need to encourage and reward knowledge workers – employees who are paid to think – to share information across disciplines.

According to Doug Cooper, Intel Canada Country Manager, we must first get past the industrial model of merely adding more people and taking shorter steps to produce more goods. "That's ineffective today, with knowledge workers who can touch every facet of a modern company," says Cooper. "We need a commitment to creating, sharing and applying knowledge to increase productivity," he explains. "We should be aware of working in isolation, inadvertently hoarding what we know. Management has to encourage reusing, rather than reinventing."

Intel is among the leading companies which are creating forums for sharing ideas and hosting virtual workshops for a cross-section of contributors within their organizations. Participants are encouraged to solicit team input on blogs, and use mobility tools and software programs to facilitate exchange and stimulate improved productivity. As Cooper says, "Knowledge isn't something you stock up and lock up. It needs to get out, get around and grow."

Technology is instrumental in this growth of sharing business intelligence, along with developing a disciplined process within an organization's information technology group, to experiment with technologies that promote the collaboration and reuse of knowledge in the company. Shared workspaces, a workforce versed in laptop use, and wireless LANs can help to facilitate this process. However, information sharing among knowledge workers is most effective only when companies make it a priority to create environments that reward the sharing of business intelligence. A culture of continuous improvement is nurtured workers who think for a living when Canadian companies, large and small, may not be the only competitive advantage we have – but it might be the decisive one.

"WE NEED A COMMITMENT
TO CREATING, SHARING AND
APPLYING KNOWLEDGE TO
INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY"



"KNOWLEDGE ISN'T SOMETHING YOU STOCK UP AND LOCK UP. IT NEEDS TO GET OUT, GET AROUND AND GROW."

On May 6, it's time for a new French revolution



PAUL WELLS

"What you soon realize if you spend any time in France is that everyone is a little frightened. You keep running into people who are so sure they will be taken for a ride that they spend their days in a shell of proactive intelligence."

The writer who gives you hope. The bureaucrat who makes you fill out another form to fix mistakes you can't see on the first. The person who won't sell you only three memberships, because who only buys three memberships? One day when I was trading there I loaded change for the lemons. My French roommate believed in "Go to the restaurant in Place Maugre. The lady will tell you you can't have any change." Tell her that's fine, there are plenty of other restaurants where you can buy your newspaper if that's the way she wants to be. Then she'll make change for you."

Of course France is not a lovely country. I'm about to move there for a while. But I've come to believe France is what a country becomes when people are less and less sure there will be enough to go around. Enough opportunity. Enough possibility for advancement and reward. Enough jobs. Opportunity like a two-man bedframe and everyone is trying to pull it to his end of the bed. It makes you defensive. A 2007 TNS-Sofina poll found that 15 per cent of Britons and 31 per cent of Germans give frequently to charities. The comparable figure for France was 18 per cent. Subsequent surveys have shown that the number of French donors is stable but the amount they give is declining. People can't afford to be generous if you have a job and bonuses, you cling to them for dear life and descend into the secrets to protect against any threat. If you don't, it's not your third-generation Marlin in a gangster house, once played for half your life and counting—you are flat out of luck.

The good news is that the people of France

are starting to figure this out. It is making them less invisible. In the 2002 presidential election, terrorist websites and voters enlisted their passing fancy for a final procession of Trotskyist and otherwise nutty fringe candidates. Jean-Marie Le Pen made it to the second round and so forth. So that year people gave their heads a shake. Voter turnout increased by half, and support for fringe candidates collapsed. Le Pen lost a million votes. The May 6 runoff will be a fair fight between

enough. Good back to her if she wins, and to France, because despite her bold talk, she seems intent on defending the failed labour market protection racket that has made modern France what it is. If she does win, it will be in part because many French find Sarkozy scary. That's easy to understand. He's violent and arrogant. He called the 2005 basketball players "seems." He appropriated Le Pen's code words ("French identity," which sometimes sounds like an appeal to ethnic purity) to defeat Le Pen twice.

So I know it's a hard sell when I say Sarkozy represents France's best hope for a kind of change that could finally show the country out of its defensive crouch. Nobody else is talking about the link between hope and growth, and between growth and work. "I want to show that during can be more grateful than mediocre itself," he has written. "To show that he who takes no risks is, in reality, taking them all." He was a France where "losing a job is no longer a disaster because finding a new one is simple and easy." By reducing payroll taxes, dipping away at the entrenched benefits of some employees who have the rest of the country's labour market hostage, he wants to open up opportunity for everyone—even for the forgotten tenants of the business.

His odds of succeeding are far from best. Even he knows Royal, his party could lose the legislative elections a month later. Ding ding him at every turn will be



Sarkozy represents the country's best hope for getting out of its defensive crouch

chiefly matched opponents, the second at Socialist Royal and the center-right Nicolas Sarkozy.

Already this is good news. That high turnout ensures the next president will have a stronger mandate than Jacques Chirac ever did, especially after Chirac's shotgun wedding with the Le Pen-aped French elections in 2002. Both candidates claim to want a mandate for change. Royal called her first speech showing a victory for anyone who believes in "not only possible but urgent to get out of a system that no longer works."

With a first-round score of 25.8 per cent, more than five points behind Sarkozy, Royal has a tough hill to climb, but she could yet win. Most of the charmed-life candidates were on her left, and they have already

the belief that if France wins solutions that have worked in Britain or Sweden in Ireland, it will become less French. But, guesswork didn't make Ireland less Irish or Sweden less Swedish. It's kind of funny that a plurality of the expat French voters living in Montreal voted for Royal. These expats are in and out of Quebec because it is, at least in raw terms, a functioning market economy. And the only guy with a hope of making France more like Quebec is Sarkozy. Last Sunday France learned its lesson and acted responsibly. On May 6 it can take a chance and not build the defensive crouch being failed, now's the time. W

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at www.wells.ca/silencewell

Boo! Hiss!
An image
makeover?
How
shallow!



ANDREW W. BUITER



ANDREW POTTER

Politics is supposed to be about the things people do why are so many politicians behaving like mouse stars? The fun started last week when Democratic party presidential candidate John Edwards was obliged to

the fishing jacket he wore in *Man on Fire* made him look like George W. Bush and Viggo Mortensen's semi-attended saddlebag. Few men could withstand that much neckling and not turn to an image consultant for help.

But it's not something that just about everyone agrees on, it is. That Canadians are increasingly turned off by a politics that is buffed and shiny dried, just another line of concrete guards. What we see in people is possibly what our leaders are missing called "authenticity." Instead of using elaborate performers, we want someone who is comfortable in his or her skin, who isn't afraid of being spontaneous, going off-message or making a mistake, and who's willing to tell the myth consultants to take a hike. This search for authenticity is the subject of a number of recent books, including Joe Klein's first hit *On the Border*, *Politics Live* by Alvin



Edwards is inordinately proud of his hair—Republicans labelled him 'the Breck girl'

out new ways to engage and inspire us. — *on*

maybe just some satirical old ways, like saying what they think is obvious as possible."

Hard to disagree with that. But we had someone like this, not long ago. Remember him? He wore gold-plated items that showed off his manboobs and gave a whole lot of bloggers and Frank photo illustrators their jollies.

Smiley, U.S. Senator John McCain was asked if he had any ideas for how to deal with Iraq. He picked up the mike and immediately broke into song, singing "Fourth term" to the tune of the Beach Boys' hit "Barbara Ann." His audience laughed, but the lines didn't only reinforce the widespread belief that he's too much of a wing nut to be president. Looking for a leader who goes off message? Stretch back to 1997, when Clinton was asked the usual any thoughts about the pepper spraying of U.S. soldiers who were protesting the presence of Saddam's dictator Sabeen, for the APFC newsletter "For me, pepper, I put it on my plate," he said. *Life After Clinton*. Clinton on America, Inc.

also fostered the beginning of his long and painful drift from Du Little Guy to Du Boy.

At the end of *Poltergeist* Last, Joe Klein puts out the a call for a poltergeist who can tell a joke, go weepy, get angry, even and also in

the odd (and pleasant), but always "without reason." Yet that's precisely the problem because what I consider to be "angry without reason" is in for you beyond the pale, and the man's ranting against me that woman's character just put. Sure, we've got more and more authority in our politics, but when such comes to this, we want to know only what it means, our own narrow values and identity. The reason why politicians have to go on and on about why they think differently to their talking points is that they're not and they're not. They are punished for more frequently than they are rewarded.

The subtitle of Klein's book is "How American politics was trivialized by people who think you're stupid," but it is the public, not the spin doctors, who are to blame for a political culture that is as blind and homogeneous as first Ford and Jimmy Carter. In the McDonald's or Kink's, political leaders are trying to appeal to as many people as possible without turning anyone off. Worse, they have the additional burden of trying to do it under the omnipresent and omniscient gaze of the media that will rip them apart if the slightest mistake is made. Given the alternatives, it is not so much how 34,000 hateful night-shifters look like a barnyard. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Andrew Potter, visit his blog at www.madison.ca/andrewpotter.

Figure 1

**Earn
DOUBLE
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	Cash	Time
OFFICE FURNITURE	51	05/105
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OFFICE SUPPLIES	67	10/138
SOFTWARE	63	10/147
STATIONERY	64	11/113

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HOW TO PASS THE (WAR) TIME

While the U.S. army's 62nd Airborne Division has the direst of jobs—trying to control the violence in Baghdad (since early April they started building a 5-km-long, 5-m-high wall around a Sunni enclave that is surrounded by Shiite neighborhoods), they also have plenty of free time.

1. A soldier marks each long day spent at Command Outpost Callahan.
2. Taryn Superna and Co. provide some entertainment during downtime.
3. A U.S. army specialist from Molesville, Calif., prepares for duty.
4. A consignment of one of the privates posted in his long quarters.
5. A soldier equipped with all the necessary distractions—a mobile ghetto of his enormous-sized daughter and a few favorite n-videos.
6. A group of airborne troops take a breather in Combat Outpost Peril.
7. A T-shirt with "Danger Stay Back" in English and Arabic (so that nothing is lost in translation) is hung outside a U.S. army outpost.
8. A U.S. army private keeps in shape at Combat Outpost Peril.





Housework doesn't pay. 'Paid work gives you money, you need money to support your kids. What's complicated about that?'

LESLIE BENNETTS, AUTHOR OF 'THE FEMININE MISTAKE,' TALKS TO KATE FILLION ABOUT WOMEN'S RISKS, ASSETS AND DELUSIONS

Q *Has he inspired a firestorm by saying it's unsafe for mothers to stay home with their kids because it renders them economically dependent on men? And yet, stay-at-home moms are bugging all over the place that it's the best decision they've ever made. Am they not deluded?*

At I tested in my own interviewing something that is backed up by a lot of social science research: women do not make these decisions knowing a lot of the information they really should know in order to make informed choices. The coming up necessarily clash up with them later, and they're blindsided by a lot of very different challenges that they didn't anticipate. It's based on that they say, "Oh my God, I made such a mistake, why didn't anybody tell me this information?" So yes, they're not deluded, but there is an information gap.

Q: Well, why is it a mistake to stay home with the baby?

At it's unattractive for women to drop-out of the labour force thinking that they can come back when their kids are older, because the barriers are extraordinary. They will encounter discrimination against women, even more discrimination against mothers, and employers are very negative about women who have been out of the labour force for a long length of time. Women also don't seem to realize that they lose nearly 60 per cent of their earning power when they take a time out as short as three years or less. But the larger question is the

personal risk: a life the divorce rate is 50 per cent, and the average age of widowhood is 40 years in St. Women are likely to be in their 40s and 50s, and by the time someone is 60 years old, two-thirds of them are without partners. And then there's unemployment. It's a very volatile and insecure labor market, so even if your husband's a wonderful guy and he doesn't quit work and he doesn't die, he can lose his job. When you add up all the risk factors, it becomes clear that it's a real sustainability of women who are going to have these problems—the majority of women on the course of their lifetimes are going to end up on the wrong side of the odds. It takes ten years for all of this to play out, and women need to be focused very much on the moment, and it's unrealistic needs reflect that would reduce the success in some of the long run.

Q: Is there anything at all to recommend staying at home?

At 90th, wouldn't she take such a high-risk gamble with any children's lives? Different people have different appetites for risk. I wouldn't go climb Mount Everest because I know that one out of eight people who do that die. In the case of my at-home room, two-thirds to three-quarters of them will probably end up having mild to severe challenges. A parent's first obligation is to provide food and shelter for their children, and if a mother does not maintain the ability to do that, I would question whether she's really being a responsible parent.

Q. One of your arguments is that working

people have a full right, short of the way to express that conviction in his and now as a secret.

A Freudian? The classic parental psychology that kids thrive on boredom, food and love and the two essential components of a strong family: adult life, and I think the many of us work professionally challenge and parents to keep on growing and learning. I think that's one of the new realities in that they are not just kids anymore. They are becoming young people who want the best of challenges and that's fine with me. I just wish that they knew made a choice that when they're going to do that they're going to support that child. I think if something happens to [their] second income. That doesn't allow two incomes to provide the kind of middle class lifestyle that is more sustainable to provide a generation or two up, to flourish, that rely on a single income and a second income.

Q: I can already see the letters to the editor. Day-at-home moms are going to write, "Tax cuts is worth."

At 1½ tons of work to run a household, I was a household. I've made a homemade dinner for my children every night for the last 18 years. But you don't get paid for it. So I'm sorry, when that next charge comes due or the grocery bill has to be paid, a dinner's dinner that you worked hard doing house work. You can't pay it if you don't have an income! And if you're depending on a man and he left or just died, and you haven't thought through how you're going to provide for your kids, it doesn't matter how much

the money you did. I don't understand why there's this confusion. That work gives you money, you need money to support your kids—what's complicated about that? [they're] not getting paid, women end up with fewer pensions, fewer savings, and women end up in poverty at twice the rate of men. Another thing that's important to note is the fear out of five if the woman who end up in poverty didn't start on poor. These are people who had comfortable lives, they lost their breadwinners, and [hadn't] planned for their own futures, and ended up in a poor

Q: How can it be that a lot of women don't reach up out of work as well as write the excuse of having kids and run with it, to get away from jobs they were disillusioned with? Why do women give up so easily?

A Girls grow up thinking one size fits all, especially if they're not extroverts of it, that you're going to meet Prince Charming and live off each other happily forever after—and he's going to take care of you. And so what you see is that when young men are ruthless in their efforts, they figure out they may as well spread their net over them. They're predators. Whether you just think and say "Well, I didn't really want to do this anyway and I can go home and be supported by my husband." This is not a viable long-term strategy for life in the 21st century. As the expert I quoted in my book put it, marriage is an economic partnership—the problem is that women assume not only all the economic risk, but what you get is a divorce, and then you're worse off financially than when you started. That women's standard of living goes down by 18 percent and men's goes up by 28 percent. The man's job is undervalued as the door with the family's money goes out, which is his career loss earning power. All of women don't know that one of the results of the equality revolution

Q *You're going to be 20 years in front the courts are signing to evidence, "Well, you have an education, so we'll give you a couple of years of rehabilitative therapy, and then you're in on your own."* And the woman is just thunder-struck, she says, "What a minute. I've been out of the workforce for 18 years, I just sent out a hundred resumes and I can't get one job interview, what do you mean I'm on my own? I can't support myself!"

Q *The students you interviewed were really well educated, but the stay-at-home cases of 1970s and 80s who hadn't thought of any of this, this was*

As These are women who wouldn't think of having a child without baby-proofing their houses and researching which is the best stroller to buy, and yet they seem unable even to think about how they're going to pay for food and shelter if something happens to

their husbands. I think there's a lot of denial around the subject of men and marriage. It's like the promise women read: that the odds as you will talk to women who say, "Yes, all my friends are getting divorced, but nothing bad will ever happen to me." Well, that's just not a prudent way to be a grown-up if you have children depending on you.

Q: One of the interesting things in the blogosphere, maybe not in real life, is the idea that the "Wannabe Wives" have been harmful, that women who stay home should not judge women who work outside the house, and vice versa, that we are should be calling anyone's life choices a mistake. Why do you think it's okay?

A: It's harder to say that I'm calling people's life choices a mistake as if that were a qualitative judgement. It's a question of facts and

But I still had some investigative reporting and found out that their own kind of justice in their own supply that's going to make their children sick, I think women would like to know about it, they'd probably agree to solve the pay-lies. And just when it comes to questions of a family's finances, all the financial planners and investment people that I talked to said it's really difficult to get women to step up to the plate. Women will say things like, "Oh, my husband has a life insurance policy, so I don't think I have to go. We'll be okay." They haven't really dug down to the truth, and here's [my thought] through the fact that the husband's life insurance policy is really only for family. For three or four years after he dies, it's for the family. After that, 50 years I don't suggest that their lives are a miracle. I'm saying that's a miracle so dependent on a man to support you. If the man were to die, it's probably not worth out-

Q: Obviously working-class women and single mothers have never had the luxury of opting out of the workforce, and quite a few middle-class moms don't either.

As many people think this is just an elite phenomenon that only is relevant to privileged women, The Wall Street Journal reported a couple of months ago that the new data shows this is occurring at all socio-economic levels. It becomes an aspirational model, and it's also a question of women having been brainwashed into believing this is necessary for their children to run our world, which it's not.

Q Do you think, and does social science show, that kids are better off in any way when their mothers stay home?

A: No. Social scientists have been studying the children of working mothers and the children of stay-at-home mothers for more than 40 years, trying to prove that one group does better than the other, and they've completely failed to show any evidence to suggest that it's preferable to have tiny at-home mothers. That's not what determines who the children

turn out well. When I say things like that, worse often come back at me and say, "Well, you're just saying we should all watch our own children in suburban daycare." Child care of all kinds has been so demonized

Qs But the reality is it's very hard to find affordable, accessible, high-quality child care.

A I think that's absolutely true, it's national disgrace. This is not a women's issue, it's not a women's problem. Fathers should be doing a lot more to be partners as parents, and the government should be doing more, and corporations should be doing more to develop family friendly policies. But the way things are right now, it is not true that the children of working mothers die worse than the children of stay-at-home mothers.

④ *None* in your book are either damping.



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As God tests and tries us, we see women who show what happens to them, the stories of some of which are harrowing. And yet we will keep on thinking there are no exceptions to the rule. They're not the exception to the rule. They're the norm. It does not matter if women or their kids lie in the wildly unrelenting. I'm not saying all men are soundbells, but enough of them are, and women are shocked and surprised by the misogyny after enough that I would think that you should consider it as being within the realm of possibility.

ON THE WEB: For exclusive audio, video and interview podcasts visit www.medians.ca/mediacore

HARPER EMBRACES THE NUCLEAR FUTURE

Climate-change anxiety breathes new life into nuclear power, and shifts Ottawa's plans

BY JOHN CANNON • Stephen Harper would seem an unlikely proponent for nuclear power. When the Prime Minister launches into his familiar spiel about Canada as an emerging "energy superpower," we all think we know what he's talking about—he's an Alberta MP; after all, and his father wrote for *Imperial Oil*. He is a key speech last summer in London, his most gleeful hour: one in which he noted oil profits, but also noting uranium prices. "There aren't many better investment ideas, so to speak, in the resource markets these days," Harper jotted in the *Gatineau* U.K. Chamber of Commerce crowd. Then, noting that Britain is among those countries poised to begin buying new nuclear for the first time in decades, he added: "We'll hope you remember that Canada is not just a source of uranium, we also manufacture state-of-the-art CANDU reactor technology, and we're world leaders in safe management of fuel waste."

The time and place Harper chose to plug Canada's nuclear industry were telling. Just three days before his July 14 London speech, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, whom Harper greatly admires, had waded into a storm of controversy by formally proposing that Britain build new nuclear plants to stay on track with its plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

President George W. Bush was way ahead, having signed an energy bill the summer before that offered \$1 billion in tax breaks and loan guarantees to a bid to pump-start the first new nuclear reactor construction in the U.S. since the 1970s. Given all that action, Harper's government, once its own evidence of nuclear as part of an environmental web of collaboration for new emissions-reducer power "Alecson" from the time we took office," says Minister Resources Minister Gary Lunn, "we've seen a nuclear renaissance around the globe."

It's a renaissance fuelled largely by climate change anxiety. Generating electricity with natural gas and coal contributed 37 per cent of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions in 2004, the latest data available, right up there with road transport at 29 per cent, and the fossil fuel industry itself at 20 per cent. Nuclear plants offer the allure of reliable power with out planet blanketing carbon dioxide. Not only that, the price is right. In Ontario, the going rate for nuclear-generated electricity is under five cents a kilowatt hour, compared to a 10-cent or more for power from large wind farms. And the wind doesn't always blow. The nuclear industry remains more or less, nearly three decades after Three Mile

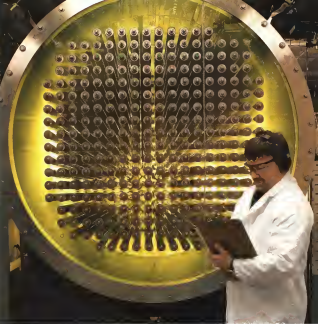
Islands—still hasn't been sealed. Then there's the daunting upfront cost of a nuclear plant, about \$3 billion each for newer model reactors, and the hundreds of millions Ontario spends on nuclear R&D. If anywhere near as much was poured into green alternatives, and nuclear groups contend, that cost per kilowatt-hour gap would soon narrow. Still, green groups no longer have a decisive edge on the ecological virtue side of the argument. Global warming fears, with the attendant predictions of drought and flood and mass extinctions, might make the need to meet radioactive waste, even contemplating the old, reactive accident, seem less dire. All of which means a bitter confrontation



FRANCE HAS 58 REACTORS AND THE CLEANEST AIR IN THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD, SAYS ONE MINISTER

Island battered transportation in North America, is emerging as PR. Bruce Power, Canada's only private nuclear generating company, recently signed a sponsorship deal with the Toronto Blue Jays.

But into make activists are hardly giving up the fight. They point out that the old problem of what to do with radioactive waste—nearly two million tonnes of waste uranium now stored temporarily around Canada's 23



THE FIT BETWEEN Harper's Tories and nuclear power seemed awkward. AECCL looked single-heartily like a Liberal industrial-policy face.

in the offing between environmental advocates and long-dug-in opponents. That may be why, aside from Harper's overriding conservatism and Lunn's hesitations, the Conservatives have been suit-slinging their pro-nuclear stance. Unlike Blair or Bush, Harper hasn't risked putting nuclear power back at the top of the agenda as a decade moment. Instead, he has quietly made a series of moves that signal a shift over his year and a half in office, from an uncertain relationship with Canada's nuclear industry, particularly federally owned Atomic Energy Canada Ltd., to making room

for roles at the core of energy and environmental strategy. "We think AECCL has a great future," says Lunn, the minister responsible for the Crown corporation. "From purely an environmental perspective, for no other reason, you have to consider such as."

Back when they took power early last year, the fit between Harper's Conservatives and nuclear power looked awkward at best. After all, AECCL, founded in 1953 and still making up hundreds of millions in taxpayer support, looks conspicuously like the sort of Liberal-style industrial policy tool the true-blue Harper

was supposed to tear apart. And back then, Harper was an avowed climate change skeptic. If he didn't believe in the problem, why buy into a supposed solution?

Any misgivings, though, have clearly been put to rest. Federal bureaucrats had their bit to add to the Tories' own nuclear camp. Shortly after last year's election, Natural Resources officials put together a briefing for Lunn's staff on nuclear policy, which was obtained by *Globe and Mail* under the Access to Information Act and provided to *Macleod's*. On an otherwise heavily censored page titled "Sta-

policy considerations," notes this simple but telling point-form assertion: "Nuclear is an important building block of long-term energy policy framework." And by long term, they mean years. Under Laus, the department last year affirmed Ottawa's support for what calls "a multilateral international collaboration to develop nuclear energy technology for application post 2030."

But policy is happening much more quickly on the nuclear front. In Ottawa, the Liberal government's controversial electricity plan, tabled last June, calls for two new reactors and the refurbishing of old ones, projects expected to cost up to 140 billion over two decades. (The new reactors would be the first since the Darlington power station came into service in 1992 after notorious construction delays and billions in cost overruns.) John Tory, the provincial Conservative leader, is calling for more new nuclear plants, forcing Premier Dalton McGuinty to drop playing the need out of fear of the voters' backlash. Ontario's program is central to fuel real plans. Although the provincial Liberals have expressed a preference for making new CANDU technology, they haven't ruled out going to one of AECL's French or U.S. rivals if the price was better. Laus has declared it "important" that the province buy its new reactors from AECL.

Perhaps more male politically interesting is the prospect of AECL carving out a new market in Alberta's oil sands—the energy story closest to Harper's heart. The concept is driven by global warming. Separating oil from sand is an enormous development requires vast amounts of steam. Currently, the oil companies are generating it by burning natural gas, making the project a huge spender of carbon dioxide, a serious problem in Ottawa considering cracking down on emissions in a new climate change policy.

Enser Energy Alberta Corp., a Calgary company that formed a partnership with AECL, laid out the advantages of solving the oil sand's "steam generation problem with nuclear power." Where Elsewhere, one of two versions of path options behind the concept, said that the company plans to file a site application with the federal Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission within 90 days for as Alberta-based generating station—be won't say exactly where—powered by two AECL reactors.

Honour's opinion timeline, says are regulatory approval within four years, start construction in 2011, throw the switch to begin using nuclear power to separate sand from oil to 200,000 barrels of oil a day in 2016. "We've got the federal government on board, the provincial government on board, and two local communities that want us," he says.

Laus has predicted it will be a matter of time before nuclear renaissance begins "a very significant role in the oil sands."

FOR POLITICIANS, ENVIRONMENTALISTS, and the nuclear industry, the new terms for the old debate over nuclear power would have been immovable back in the dark days after Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. In the 1970s and '80s, nuclear power had a disastrous environmental image, and by the 1990s, the sector looked dormant, even doomed. But climate change fears have intensified so much in the past few years that electricity without emissions sounds pretty sweet. The pro-nuclear side of nuclear development, and a 32-year energy vision. "People like myself stuck with it through the tough times. Right now, climate is a favorite."

It wouldn't be if AECL was far side, which might have suited glory of Times just fine. In fact, helping news for newly minted Laus had with AECL president Robert Van Adl, obtained by Greenpeace, show he was planning to bludgeoned by Van Adl's "perspective or perspective." That wasn't a far-fetched proposition. The French nuclear giant here is widely viewed as an expert by AECL over you on the block. Laus and he met three representatives, although he declined to discuss exactly what they wanted to talk with him about. "There is interest in the nuclear [in buying AECL]," he said. "But there's absolutely no discussion of that at any level in the government at this time."

Behind the possibility of privatization, AECL's future was likely to play through the first half of last year. On a Thursday conference call at another National Resources building from early 2006, attended by Greenpeace, a broad consensus is suggested in the point form notes: "need to review and assess prospects for AECL, with its mission."

If AECL sailed through that review, two timely tactical moves appear to have been the keys to its success. First, Jean-Pierre, AECL executive director "Brian CANDU," an alliance with big private investors, which Laus had applied, among the participation of players like Hydro and SNC Lavalin boost his confidence that any future Canadian reactor projects will be completed without any risk that taxpayers would be on the hook for cost overruns. Second, last fall, AECL struck its deal with Energy Alberta to push the oil sands concept that carries such obvious appeal for Harper and his Alberta base. Still, it remains unclear how aggressive the



SUPPORT FROM PARLIAMENT HILL MIGHT FADE IF AECL FAILS TO MAKE SALES IN A BOOMING MARKET



Conservatives will be about openly touting nuclear power as a core element of their climate change strategy. Environment Minister John Baird is expected to release the government's new plan for making greenhouse gas from major industrial sources this week. For nuclear reactors, he might decide to underplay nuclear power, even if its expansion amounts to a basic assumption behind the policy. Any explicit pro-nuclear reference would rile up environmental groups that are already expected to be scolding in their reaction. As well, provincial governments are mostly responsible for choosing the role of nuclear for meeting their electricity needs, and the federal Tories don't want to be seen as pushing nuclear power or them.

But between the loss of a leaked draft of Baird's plan, it's hard not to read unimpressed for nuclear power's upside potential. More than two-thirds of Canada's coal-fired generating capacity will need to be replaced by 2020 and more new generating capacity will be required," says the draft. "Some 1594



AECL's Jerry Hayward told, heading a panel at a last month, the Tories' Jerry Laus two timely tactical moves appear to have shaped up the prospects of privatization. In capital investments will need a clear mandate. "Options for investing in new generating capacity that won't spare CO₂ are, to say the least, limited. Environmental groups call for accelerated investments in renewable sources like solar and wind. But the Conservatives make little or no distinction between nuclear power and those so-called "soft" renewables. Like Laus, environmentalists in January of what the government calls its own ENERGY technology initiative, which is planning to 30 million new "clean energy technologies." His own mission was the fund's priorities "industrial oil sands production, clean coal, clean oil sands production and renewable energy."

look to be ahead in the race to bring new reactor market. Areva is already building the first of its new model in Finland, and Westinghouse's updated design has been chosen as the first stage of a huge expansion of China's nuclear generating capacity.

But Hayward says AECL is in good shape. Workman who he calls the "conceptual design" for the AC1000, and more detailed design work is slated to be finished by 2010. That means, he says, the first commercial station powered by the new reactor could be reached out by 2016. "That's the logical first phase," he says. "It's the heart of CANDU."

There are other possibilities. New Brunswick's new Liberal government was the province's election last year as a platform that included possibly adding a second reactor at Point Lepreau. Atlantic Canada's only nuclear power plant. They're there. Alberta. Production in the oil sands is slated to grow fivefold over the next decade or so. It's another barrel of crude a day. "At that stage," Hayward says, "several nuclear units would certainly be appropriate to supply energy demand."

Foreign markets also beckon. Some observers expect China to build as many as 80 reactors in the next two decades. Westinghouse has locked down the first piece of that huge expansion, and there was fear AECL might be drawn out. But Laus said he and other cabinet ministers worked during visits to China to persuade the Chinese to put AECL back on their plans. "They have now said they are open to CANDU technology," he said.

AECL is trying to build on a track record, having delivered two reactors in China in 2002 and 2003, both on budget and ahead of schedule.

But it's another focus for AECL's export chase. They're aware of the need to make strong reactors or be increasingly reliant on imported fuel. His government is slated to release an energy white paper this summer that expected to formally call for new nuclear reactors. A massive battle with environmental groups is however, said French public opinion agencies deeply shy. Still, following up on a 1990s understanding in London last summer, AECL has as chances, apparently promising that Britain might buy up to four of its reactors as it adds up to 12,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the next 20 years.

ALL THE TALK OF AECL, BEHIND A WAVE OF domestic and international interest, says drive Canadian environmental groups call "Frankly, renewable, conservation, and energy efficiency saving more cost-effective in terms of reducing carbon dioxide," says Danielle Moorhouse, a Sierra Club of Canada campaigner on energy and climate change. "If you're investing billions in nuclear, that's just

A few good men, but no vindication

Record-breaking snipers can't blame the military for their suffering

BY MICHAEL FREEDLANDT • They were the first Canadian troops to enter combat in Afghanistan. It was March 2002, back when 9/11 was still fresh and Canada's coffin count was still zero. For nine days and nine nights, a team of Edmonton army snipers marched up and down the infamous Shabak Valley, hunting al-Qaeda fighters and intercepting enemy backdrops. By the time Operation Anaconda was over, the Canadian sharpshooters had met the list of their elite profession. One member of the unit—Cpl. Rob Furlong—broke the all-time combat record, killing another man from 1,610 m away.

They were the boys of the base. "Like rock stars," another fellow soldier. The Afghans who worked beside them were so impressed with the sniper's handiwork that they even wrote all five stars for the coveted Bronze Star medal. Yet within days, their heroism was instantly forgotten, overshadowed by gruesome allegations that two of the snipers—Master Cpl. Graham Ragsdale and Cpl. Aaron Perry—killed a finger off an enemy corpse. The accusations never pointed out, after a 30-month probe, the Canadian Forces National Investigations Service (NIS) said there wasn't enough evidence to lay criminal charges. But the damage was done. Furlong, Perry and Ragsdale were on their way out of the army, convinced that the Forces had hung them out to dry.

For almost three years now, that question—"Did the military mistreat its decorated snipers?"—has been at the core of a yet another investigation, this one by Yves G  , the Canadian Forces ombudsman. Thirty months and 147 witnesses later, he now has answers: the snipers were not abandoned. "Our investigation could not find any evidence that the members of the Battle Group had awarded the snipers or that the chain of command encouraged or prompted this media," reads his final report, obtained by Maclean's. The snipers, as a group, were treated fairly by the Canadian Forces before, during and after their service in Afghanistan.

The report, 67 pages long, isn't certainly not as well with some of the former snipers, who still believe they were dismissed out of the military for no good reason. "It's not as serious as happened over there," Furlong told Maclean's last year, in his only public interview. "It took the share off what really took place there, and destroyed people's lives."

But according to the ombudsman, if lives were destroyed, it wasn't the army's fault. The chain of command did nothing wrong. In fact, Lt. Col. Pat Stanger, the senior officer in Kandahar at the time, "took a personal interest in the snipers and ensured that their needs were taken to assist them" as soon as the war began to simmer. If anything, the snipers simply fell victim to a series of extraordinary events—some unfortunate, some self-inflicted. G  's report, for example, reveals that it was actually a fellow sniper—a master corporal from Manitoba who was apparently attached to the team—who blew the whistle on Ragsdale and Perry, telling superiors that he witnessed both men snuff a cigarette in a corpse's mouth. They were also seen with a plastic bag

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THE ONLY THING THE MILITARY DID WRONG, THE OMBUDSMAN SAYS, WAS TO IGNORE THE CONCERNS OF A DISTRAUGHT FATHER

that he "intently" and consumed a severed finger. Ragsdale was immediately stripped of his command, dismissed, and Perry was searched, arrested and put on a plane back to Canada. "The accumulation of these events shattered the cohesion and morale of the sniper team," the ombudsman writes.

Nobody suffered more than Ragsdale. Overwhelmed by depression, he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and discharged from the army. His father, Pat, wrote later after he learned of G  's findings, "I was not a Canadian war hero, was named 'unbranded' criminal and 'assaulted body'." Some of the officers who spoke out, claiming they weren't involved by the NIS. However, the ombudsman concludes that calling the police was still the right move, considering how serious the allegations were. He also notes that although no charges were laid, the NIS did in fact find a corpse with a missing finger. "The Commanding Officer would be rightly subject to criticism if he had failed to act," G   writes. "While the subsequent investigation may very well have had a negative impact on the team's morale, the referral of



TOP TO BOTTOM: Cpl. Aaron Perry, Cpl. Rob Furlong, Master Cpl. Graham Ragsdale

the allegations to the NIS cannot be considered under mistreatment." (The Military Police Complaints Commission, another independent body, is in the middle of its own investigation into the conduct of the National Investigations Service.) Again and again, the ombudsman dismisses any suggestion that the snipers got a raw deal. After Perry was arrested, the team said they

felt isolated and unassisted. At one point, they were ordered to take a five-day leave of absence, which they interpreted as a punishment. "To get them out of the country" while the friend was shipped home and the measure of national defense made a surprise visit to Kandahar.

"The snipers believed they had been deceived," G   writes. "The investigation revealed no evidence supporting the snipers' conclusions on this issue."

It also found no evidence that the Canadian Forces plotted to deny the snipers their Bronze Star. Although it took 21 months for Ottawa to rubber stamp the U.S. honour (to lapse the ombudsman called "unreasonable and indefensible"), the men were ultimately recognized for their Afghani exploits. The Canadian military also honored them with Medals in Dispatches. "Given that they were recognized and that they received honours and awards according to their achievements, I am satisfied that the snipers were treated fairly," G   writes.

Furlong is now a police officer. Ragsdale, still grappling with mental illness, lives in Edmonton, as does Perry, who was also diagnosed with PTSD and released from the military. The other two snipers are still serving.

G   says he sympathizes with everyone's plight, calling the entire saga an "extremely painful" story. But "the evidence does not support the attribution of the snipers' mental injuries to unfair or incoherent treatment."

IT TOOK THE SHINE OFF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED OVER THERE. IT DESTROYED PEOPLE'S LIVES.



ROB FURLONG broke the all-time record for snipers

by the Canadian Forces," he says. "War and combat are extremely difficult and, nevertheless, unrepeatable. Unfortunately, and inevitably, there will be casualties of different kinds, including victims of PTSD, as happened here. The key is that the Canadian Forces, Veterans

Affairs Canada and the Government of Canada ensure that those victims—and their families, which appropriate—receive all the best high-quality treatment, care and attention, together with proper benefits. Overall, my conclusion is that this has happened here for the snipers."

So Pat Ragsdale, after years of writing letters, finally has some answers. His son and his comrades were not cheated. They weren't

targeted by jealous superiors. And his son's PTSD is a by-product of combat, not the outcome that happened after his death, the snipers—horses are innocent, outsiders the military had no reason to complain. As far as the ombudsman is concerned, it's the only person with a real bone in the Ragsdale, a father whose quartet's careers were never truly ignored. "These men were called for a prouder and thoughtful response," he says. "Instead, his letters were politely and gently acknowledged but not being properly answered."

None, no doubt, will think the ombudsman did the very same thing. M

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Being late with taxes has a price

BY MICHAEL FREEDLAND • Debra Jenkins doesn't dispute the facts: For two consecutive years, 2002 and 2003, she didn't file her income returns. But her excuse seemed reasonable enough. She had a deep wound from her breast. Her mother died of cancer. Her brother-in-law died. Her father-in-law died. The father of her eldest daughter died. And her marriage fell apart.

In April 2005—after years of “emotional and mental stress”—the taxpayer woman wrote a letter to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), asking the debt to waive hundreds of dollars worth of late fees and interest. “I knew I was obligated to do my income tax returns,” she wrote. “But I remember being unable to find and organize all the information.” CRA’s refusal to grant her a break. When she appealed, the answer was the same. “The substantial majority of the information even you have said occurred prior to August 2003,” the agency wrote back. In other words, some real hard-luck-assant concluded that the bad plucky of one—she might as well—be a good-bye to her and pay up.

Take heed. If you’re going to file late in the year the deadline is April 30, you’d better have a better excuse than Debra Jenkins. A case of the sniffles clearly won’t cut it. “The department does have a heart,” says CRA spokeswoman Colleen Gosses-Hawes. “But it must be something that is beyond a person’s control.” Last fiscal year, 60,000 Canadians asked CRA to slash their late penalties, and almost—orange everything from car accidents to natural disasters. The department approved slightly more than half those requests (11,000), for a combined forgiveness of \$306 million.

“That’s not bad,” says John Waters, a chartered accountant and manager of tax planning at BMO Nesbitt Burns. “I’m sure there are a lot of people who just got in excuses to pay in the sky or a shot at the dark because they have chosen all the other options.”

Jenkins is running out of options. “Too late, sorry,” she air quotes, as she approached \$4,900, the 100th day to file to the Federal Court of Canada. Again, the system ruled against her. “These reasons could have been cited on time and amended at a later date, once the missing information was received,” said Justice Pierre Boudre. Before adjourning, the judge also ordered Jenkins to cover the cost of the entire hearing—bouncing her debt by another \$100. ■

The Lebanon evacuation: the bill is in

COLIN CAMPBELL • When the battle between Israel and Hezbollah erupted last July, Canada moved to evacuate close to 15,000 passport holders from Beirut and other parts of southern Lebanon caught by the fighting. There was much speculation around what exactly the largest rescue effort ever undertaken by Canada cost. Foreign Affairs, and now we know it was all done for the bargain price of \$62.3 million.

The controversial evacuation was still a costly and complex endeavour, judging by a breakdown of costs provided to Maclean’s under the Access to Information Act. By far the biggest expense was travel and relocation costs, totalling \$46,998,655, to charter ships and planes. Renting “motor and/or other vehicles” cost an additional \$948,915. (The gas bill for the operation: \$12,813.)

Then there were plenty of logistics. Canada paid for protection services (\$150,330), health and medical services (\$146,114), medical aid and facilities (\$17,544), and paid \$772,410 in “special fees” that can include things like accommodation, food and entertainment. Temporary help cost a further \$168,215, while salaries and wages cost \$14,529.

The second largest expense, at a cost of \$15.345, was fuel and air “intelligence and expenditures,” which, according to Public Works guidelines, includes the expense of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.



JUST MIPING OUT: Many evacuees soon returned to Lebanon.

(CIS and last year that it did play a role in the evacuation.) “Miscellaneous goods and products,” including medical and office supplies, cost another \$95,714. And to say it off, Canada paid \$10,815 to advertise the rescue and racked up a \$19,716 phone bill.

The evacuation drew controversy not only for the cost to taxpayers, but because it’s been estimated that as many as half of those evacuated have since returned to Lebanon. ■

Quebec’s workers: paradise lost?

BY RICHARD AUGER • Nice work, while they could get it. News editors, reportedly paid over \$100,000 a year for 32 hours of work over four day weeks, are now on the street, wondering what’s happened. RFPing hard but a what Pierre-Réal Plamondon, head of



THE JOURNAL’S offices: smug over the province’s work habits.

Quebec, the sprawling conglomerate of television, cable, Internet, bookstores, glossies, websites, movies and dailies, including the chain of Sun tabloids—has locked them out. Since 1990 journalists, editors and office workers in the newspaper of *Le Journal de Québec*—Quebec City’s leading tabloid—were out by every party and not even order the work. They’ve rejected rollbacks in pay and work conditions, and while testing sought by management, and are now putting out an alternative paper while management keeps pumping *Le Journal* out the door using news wires and stories from other Quebec outlets.

Management wants reporters and editors to work 36 hours, and five days a week, which might seem common, or unusual, but has struck a nerve. Quebec was built on a media behemoth—and a workers’ past due—by the late Pierre Plamondon, around the *Journal de Montréal*, a scrappy tabloid that fed off labour problems caused by ideologically driven unions grabbing its established rival, *Montréal’s La Presse*.

Now, it’s his son’s turn to run into the enlightened hell. Lucien Bouchard, the former PQ premier, has triggered a debate in the province, saying Quebecers don’t work hard enough, and can’t sustain their current lifestyle. Opponents say there it moves to life than the bottom line: family, quality of life, income too. Says the newspaper union’s Denis Bellier: “Quebec’s goal is to eliminate jobs. But we’d rather share our pain of work with more colleagues than fewer.” Right now, though, they’re working for free. ■

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WORLD



THE G-21 PRISON in Phnom Penh is now the Taol Sleng Museum of Genocide

THE PEOPLE VS. KHMER ROUGE

Bringing a case against the bloody regime is a race against time

BY CHRIS TENNIE • Noun Chh lives in an unpeopled wooden shack in a valley, near a jagged crack that marks the boundary between Cambodia and Thailand. A plink stream leads up into his home. Out from, next to the narrow dirt road, several men lounge in the shade. They claim to be farmers, but Ali-Chhimec at their feet. Inside, Noun Chh sits in a ruddy wooden chair, dressed in a billowing white shirt, with his hands resting calmly in his lap and a metal cane leaning against his knee. He is in his early eighties with receding white hair, and his cheeks are slightly hollowed with age. He appears to be depressed—

ing—but when he turns toward a visitor, his gaze sharp and probing. He reaches for a hat, then frowns, waves it briefly, and sighs. “It’s not nearly as it was you want to know?”

He has good cause to be puzzled. Noun Chh was second-in-command of the Khmer Rouge, responsible for one of the bloodiest regimes in history. The Khmer Rouge were driven by a toxic mixture of nationalism, Maoism and paranoia, and recent or on-

ing a “pure” agrarian society. Between 1975 and 1979, they outlawed money, separated families, pillaged temples, killed those who were well-educated, and elevated simple villagers to positions of authority. The result was a ruined economy and widespread disease, which in turn caused outbreaks of democracy and tuberculosis. Rather than change their policies, Khmer Rouge leaders performed increasingly brutal purges of their imagined “enemies.” To dispose of these unwanted elements, the regime created hundreds of prisons, many of which were used to execute the infamous “killing fields.” An estimated 7 million people were executed or

died of disease, starvation or disease. After the Khmer Rouge were driven from power, they spent the next two decades making an attempt to rebuild Cambodia’s battered lands. Finally, in the late 1990s, they disbanded. Since then, former Khmer Rouge leaders like Noun Chh have lived as free men.

That may soon change. In Phnom Penh, a

house, an empty room is being converted into a courtroom where former Khmer Rouge leaders will be put on trial. A team of war-crimes investigators, led by a Canadian jurist, is now working to build the case. No men from the regime have been convicted, but Noun Chh will almost certainly be one of them. In “Number One Two” of the Khmer Rouge—Pol Pot was known as “Number One”—he believed national development and even the death of his enemies were linked to his leadership. He believed that he had the right to kill his enemies and even the death of his enemies were linked to his leadership. He believed that he had the right to kill his enemies and even the death of his enemies were linked to his leadership.

After a quick Noun Chh’s high forehead and his chin studies slightly when he speaks, but his voice is firm, with authority. “If they come, I will go and testify,” he says. A smile rages at the corners of his thin lips, as if he were amused by the possibility. “I will go and I will explain the real truth.”

The man who will likely face Noun Chh in that courtroom is a former Crown attorney from Montreal. Since last July, Robert Pratt has been sifting through decades of documents and meeting dozens of witnesses. If Noun Chh is put on trial, it will be in Phnom Penh, but co-prosecutors Chen Leng, and their team of 15 lawyers and investigators to make sure that the charges stick.

For the 50,000 people who were victims of the Khmer Rouge, the trial is a long-awaited justice. It has been almost a decade since Pol Pot died. To the West, a former co-sponsor known as “the butcher,” and his wife, another Khmer Rouge leader, including Noun Chh, are reportedly in poor health. So, too, are some of the witnesses needed to provide evidence



WHY DID THEY KILL SO MANY OF THEIR OWN? CAMBODIANS STILL WONDER.

about them. All of this may be why, in this Phnom Penh in late February, there is a buzzed and fidgeted look in Pratt’s dark eyes. He characteristically spins a business card in his fingers and scratches at his side and paper posture. “I apologize if I seem mad,” he says, speaking with a faint French-Canadian accent, “but it’s been a long week.”

About Pratt’s assignment being put on a trial

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT: (clockwise) Robert Peck, the Canadian who is holding the knife against surviving Khmer Rouge leaders



"WE REMAIN very much... very broken people," says a writer who was jailed at age 7. Cambodia continues to have a 'culture of impunity'



young children; and a beautiful former woman, his wife. Then says he wedding was the most important thing in his life in Rwanda, though it is also where he found his calling. He arrived in the central African country in 1995 as a sentenced criminal prosecutor—he had been a Crown attorney for 10 years—but with little international experience. When offered a position in the Rwandan war crimes tribunal, the first thing he did was check out a photo to see where he was going. "I couldn't find Rwanda anywhere," he chuckles. "The country is so tiny that it had disappeared into the crease between two pages." He walked the trail between burnt Rwandan villages, searching for war crimes and support for reconciliation and anti-racism.

What makes Cambodia different from these other postwar countries, he says, is that so few Cambodians understand why the atrocities, disease and murder happened. "In Rwanda, if you were a Tutsi, you know that you were being attacked by the Hutus because of your ethnic identity," Peck says. "In Rwanda, I am constantly asked, 'Why would Cambodians kill so many Cambodians?'"

That question plagues survivors of the Khmer Rouge era, but also younger generations. For three decades, history has been alternately denied and avoided at public debate. Confusion about the past has been heightened by the fact that former Khmer Rouge leaders continue to proclaim their innocence. "People have a very deep need to say something about what happened here," says Peck. "These trials will probably be the best chance to establish some historical record."

It may, then, transfigure the passage of the 45-year-old lawyer's words: Not only are these historic and complex cases, but the tribunal

itself—the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)—is an awkward compromise between international legal standards and Cambodia's own legacy. Cambodia has no tradition of judicial independence, and Prime Minister Hun Sen has not been willing to surrender control over his nation's most important trials. The ECCC was conceived with 10 years of fraught negotiation between the United Nations and the Cambodian government. From day one there have been rumors of political interference.

The latest accusations, from the Open Society Justice Initiative, a New York-based watchdog organization, is that Cambodian staff at

the tribunal are biased. "While, which could begin in early 2008, would send an important message," says Peck. "Sooner or later, you will be held accountable for your crimes."

This justice can't come early enough for Thery Song. In 2005 he published a book on his ordeal called *Daughter of the Killing Fields*. He wrote himself before descending being thrown in jail at age 7, along with his widowed mother and four older brothers. Because Song's words and articles were too critical for the iron shovels that sentenced other prisoners, it became his job to sing to other prisoners and search for them later. Five months later, all Khmer Rouge cadres were



POL POT (left) in an undated photo found in his hideout, Nuon Chea, his No. 2 man



her mother, then released Song and her brothers. She went in as a refugee to the United States.

Song, 36, now directs the Center for Social Development in Phnom Penh, a local human rights organization. She believes that trials of former leaders like Nuon Chea could help Cambodia society address the painful legacies of the Khmer Rouge era. "We remain very much a broken people," says Song, glancing at a draft of reports detailing social problems from reconciliation to domestic violence. "Many survivors have been unable to talk

about their trauma, they keep it inside their like a hard nod."

By finally bringing the former leaders to justice, she says, the ECCC could help undermine Cambodia's "culture of impunity"—a behind his back and one eye closed view, it is just one of hundreds of photographs of inmates who were tortured and then executed in Tuol Sleng, a torture center that has been turned into a museum. "If we don't sentence the Khmer Rouge leaders, our anger will be coming to us over and over again," she says, trembling with emotion. "They must face the law."

Even some former Khmer Rouge soldiers agree. Ngien joined the Khmer Rouge as a teenager and soon became a photographer at Tuol Sleng. He took pictures of prisoners after they were tortured or before execution, and his different later earned him a job as the personal photographer to the Khmer Rouge leaders. "I went to build a museum for reconciliation between Khmer Rouge and other Cambodians," he says, slipping through a window of the Pol Pot, Nuon Chea and other leaders in uniform and at play. Like many former Khmer Rouge soldiers, Ngien Enyng puts the tribunal because it is responsible for its atrocities at the first of his top leaders. Some express worry that the approach will be a show trial in Cambodia's society toward blind obedience and rigid hierarchy, a tradition that the Khmer Rouge exploited.

Ngien En's photos suggest he was on good terms with the Khmer Rouge leaders, but he insists that he had no choice but to follow orders. "During that time you could not protest or interfere with other people's work, or you would be killed," he says. "The general belief that people with power can beat the rule of law... however, the 100,000 members from the government. Some members of the ruling Cambodian People's Party were once Khmer Rouge soldiers themselves, including Prime Minister Hun Sen. None of today's leading politicians were senior enough to warrant prosecution by Peck, Song says, but embarrassing information could surface in the trials. And it's not just Cambodians who are nervous. China provided the Khmer Rouge with financial support and training, and Chinese diplomats have repeatedly put pressure on the Cambodian government to limit the tribunal.

Still, Song believes the tribunal can have some good. "Cambodians need a chance to at least see what happened 30 years ago, and talk about how it is affecting us today."

Many Cambodians were more than talk. Pol Pot, a 30-year-old farmer from Battambang province, was executed in the presence of a young man with his hands behind

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"IN PRINCIPLE WE WERE RIGHT," SAYS THE REGIME'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND

the ECCC paid hundreds to government officials in exchange for their positions. Cambodian judges deny the allegations, but the United Nations Development Programme is investigating. (Canada has pledged to give \$10 million to the ECCC.)

What's more, the tribunal's work has been delayed because the ECCC's international and Cambodian judges have disagreed on the procedures that will govern the trials. Behind closed doors, judges have reportedly clashed over issues such as when the court can publicly discuss the identity of accused persons. Last month, the judges announced that they had reached agreement. Thus a new obstacle arose. Cambodians' human rights activists reviled at plan in charge. Foreign defense lawyers nearly \$10,000 to work in the ECCC for the year. The international judges say this will bring them a decade's ability to choose their counsel, and the three officials to lead the trials present will be in charge.

Peck says that he will walk away from the ECCC if its procedures don't meet internationally accepted legal standards. But he hopes



THE 22ND REPUBLIC: GOAT LOVERS AVOID FREUD
Residents in a Piquet neighborhood were faced with a choice last week of whether to erect a statue commemorating Sigmond Freud, the father of modern psychology, in a public square, or a statue of some goat. In a vote held recently, the residents opted for the goat. The Piquet Press learned that a sculptor who designed the proposed goat statue had secretly been hired to paint the Freud sculpture.

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WE CAN'T MAKE NICE

Why not standing up to China is a very dangerous game

BY MICHAEL PERMAN • For decades, ever since China began opening its markets to the outside world, Western countries have been amazed that increased trade and business relations with China will eventually result in greater political freedoms in the Asian country. It is an intrinsic desire: we get to enjoy cheap goods and spread democracy at the same time. The problem is, there is little evidence to back it up. China is simply too much free now than it was 18 years ago when tanks crushed unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square.

James Mann, an author in residence at Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, has just published *The China Fantasy: How our Leaders Exploit Awe* of Chinese Repression. In this short and angry book, the former *Forbes* magazine chief for the Los Angeles Times explains why ordinary Western business leaders, politicians and even academics are eager to advocate closer economic relations with China, while at the same time arguing against doing anything to challenge China's repressive and authoritarian political order.



Photo: Hu Jintao, China's President in 2001 with Zimbababwe's Robert Mugabe

Mann argues that most proponents of trade with China adhere to one of two contradictory theories. He calls the first the "Socratic Sorcerer": trade will result in economic liberalism, which will result in political freedom. Mann dubs the second the "Upholder's Sorcerer": China is free with moral demons and, if provoked, might collapse or fall into disorder—as someone that would act in the interests of the democratic world.

Mann, however, proposes a "Third Sorcerer": much more likely, but rarely acknowledged, "What if China uses up its attention on its current economic path, yet its political system does not change in any fundamental way?" he asks. "What if, in other words, China becomes fully integrated into the world's economy, yet it remains also critically undemocratic?" Unlike other analysts, Mann believes that a military coalition between China and the U.S. is unlikely but that doesn't mean that an emboldened,

undemocratic China will not be a threat.

China, in recent years, has supported autocratic governments from Myanmar in Zimbabwe. "If the world waits up 10 years from now with a China regime that is still a deeply repressive one-party state but a revolution averted for the international community as a result of standing... that state China will serve as a model for dictators, juntas, and other undemocratic governments throughout the world—and, in all likelihood, a leading supporter of these regimes," Mann warns.

If the risks are this high, why are we not in the West willing to acknowledge them? For business leaders, the reasoning is fairly straightforward: China is an enormous market. Things get more complicated for politicians and academics. Many argue that academics are afraid to jeopardize their careers by losing access to China. "There is a worry that it's gone beyond a certain level, it's become a strong critic, that it's going to offend my relationships in China, or even my visa in China," he says. Mann also notes that China specialists are often charged only with lucrative work outside academia: for companies that do business in China.

Political-media decisions based on short-term calculations. And trade with China can pay immediate dividends in economic benefits. But many retired Western politicians also work as consultants and advisers to businesses that are eager to access the Chinese market. Such men and women include John Chirba, who did much as prime minister to promote trade between Canada and China.

Canada's relations with China have cooled since the election of Stephen Harper's Conservative government. Mann says that Western countries do have an interest in promoting democracy in China, but he doesn't think trade should be used to accomplish this. "I think we need to put aside hopes of political change and then look at policy options," he said. "And when you do that, when you look at the economic relationship whereby for economists, then suddenly the politicians and the factory designs can be evaluated fairly against the genuine interest in lower costs and so on. But we haven't had that debate, because people short-cut it and say this is the way to make China democratic."

Argentina examines its dark past

BY DANIEL MACDONALD • Former Argentine president Reynaldo Bignone will stand for crimes associated with the so-called Dirty War of 1976-83, a federal judge in Buenos Aires, the capital, has ruled. Bignone



BIGNONE in court to answer accusations of baby snatching

Argentina's last dictator, and sex offenders, are accused of baby snatching, among the gravest crimes committed under the military junta in which thousands disappeared during the dictatorship's seven-year crackdown on leftist dissent. Bignone, a former army general, describes the charge as "an invention."

To the Catholic military club, abortion was a sin, even though under apparently was not. And so, in clandestine terraces, corners, private political opponents were kept alive long enough to deliver their babies, who were then given to ideologically "right-minded" families, says Rita Ardree, professor emerita at the United Nations University in Manchester, who has studied the children of the "disappeared"—the disappeared. These children, now in their twenties, numbered about 500, of whom 10 have been reunited with their biological families.

Though cathartic, it is disheartening for Argentines, who have also judged them selves as the most civilized Latin Americans, to understand the depth of past horrors, says professor Albert Berra, an area specialist at the University of Toronto. In 2006, the Argentine Supreme Court broke with a tradition of leniency for past sinners, appealing an amnesty law shielding military officers from prosecution, and establishing the way for the many trials of former officials that are currently underway. In breaking with the old, Berra says, despite the courts are becoming, thanks for the larger question, where Argentina is heading. For now, the judicial democracy—when civilians can be brought to justice. ■

Former allies can be such a nuisance

BY DANIEL MACDONALD • Cuba was once a strong ally for the dictator Fidel Castro's Communist regime, today, the Cuban Republic is a safe haven for fleeing Cubans. After their attempt to escape from Cuba by sailing across the Straits of Florida was stopped by the U.S. Coast Guard, three Cuban families set in Guantanamo Bay for a year and a half, waiting for word of their fate. Last March, they were granted asylum in a country their doctor once counted as a great ally.

While there is little beyond a history of Communist that the families will recognize as the new surroundings, the Cuban Republic is in many ways logical home for Cuban exiles. After Castro's overthrow in 1959, Cuban Republic president Fulbright Hays tried to move to advocate on behalf of exiled Cubans, then pursuing Castro's release promises to yielding for a series of UN resolutions denouncing human rights violations in Cuba. Castro has accused the Cuban Republic, as well as other former Communist countries such as Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria that early co-opted Hays's crusade, of being "racist and imperialist."

Hays has passed on with his work space retiring to president in 2003, then year, he founded the International Committee for Democracy in Cuba, a group of international statesmen and intellectuals (Madeleine Albright and John Campbell are both members) that is lobbying the EU to demand reforms in Cuba. Hays writes: "I believe that every democratic government and every democratic

should not today as if power in Cuba was going to be handed over tomorrow."

The dictator and his remnants of the Cuban regime are being withheld from the public to protect their families at home. Cuban media has reported one case of them is suspected of committing terrorist attacks. The Cuban Republic relies on this information as false, aimed at discrediting its reputation. ■



TRADING HAVENS: Cubans flee to the chilly Cuban Republic

Joking aside: a humourless press dinner

BY LISA CHAN SAVAGE • "You know, we've got to learn to laugh in this town," President George W. Bush told the 3,000 guests at the White House Correspondents' Dinner last Saturday. But he couldn't master a quip. During the shenanigans of 11 people at Virginia Tech, Bush began offending the regular humorous speech. "I'm not going to try to be the funny guy."

Maybe. Or maybe it was payback after news anchor Stephen Colbert aced mocked Bush's intellect, politics and even his hair at the same event last year. Or, perhaps, it has become hard to laugh in the face of the relentless coverage in Iraq that has dulled jokes.



D.C. DOMEING: Rich little does an unfunny Nixon impression

than 3,000 American lives—has floated through magazines by person down the dinner.

As a dinner event in 2005, Bush showed a shift of himself preferring to look for those policy himself, weapons of mass destruction under a cloud. The gag spilled over. But other comedians have managed to joke about their challenges. During the Cold War, Ben Stiller quipped about the Soviet nuclear "gush" (a pun on Gorbachev's jokes)—or the "in the face of the Moscow Leningrad" (a pun on Clinton's refusal to look for those policy himself). "I've lost to B. What did they say?" Why haven't I produced them in the independent state? How does one state of them manage to wind up on "The Tonight Show?" he said, referring to the poorly NBC coverage.

Canadian comic Rich Little tried to kill Saturday's meal with well-worn impressions of bygone such as Reagan, Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter. He didn't touch the Iraq war. Little closed by saying, "I know we're going through troubled times right now, but you guys laugh." After the attack of Sept. 11, 2001, pandas declared the end of comedy. Maybe they spoke to more than 100,000. ■



As the clock ticked, Jurgens von Arnim—son of a Jurgens Prima von Arnim, Duke of Saxe-Jena, Court of Saxony—strolled toward a nearby Bombardier bus (or, as he calls it, “125 million pounder”). Minutes in, he, the 64-year-old was standing directly behind the engine’s powerful exhaust, geyser hot and bl as jets flapping in it. It would take him enough in a hurricane. “Waving to him from one more crew, von Arnim picked up a can of white paint and tossed it on the air. He reached for the red can next. Then green. Then yellow. *Adieu*—and such one, the blast of the engine pounded the paint into a giant crimson fire centred away. “The never seen anything so fabulous,” said one woman in the audience. “The painting is gorgeous.” Susan Foster

PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A CON MAN

As this means, however, the self-pro

Vice-Araki is standing in a double-car garage, smoking a cigarette and admiring his "masterpiece." His work screams Florida: ibekis pants, pink belt, brown loafers, no socks, and a knee shirt unbuttoned almost to the waist. A thick gold chain complements the look. The house is equally flashy, situated in a posh gated community where the hedges are impeccably trimmed and the security guards are always on patrol. But it's not his house. The son he tells is a relative had none.

Their grand plan is to launch a "Millions on Jeopardy!" tour, with stops in Rome, Berlin, London, China and Australia. "The last one will be Moscow," the prince says. "I want a jet to be pulled on the Red Square. I imagine we will get the permit. The Rolling Stones performed there and it was packed. They hope to make some money. No question. But the von Arnholts also insist that they are out to help the less fortunate. At each event, the prince promises to donate one of his creations to a worthy cause, to be chosen

VON ANHALT'S FORMER WIFE EMILIA WAS THE RINGLEADER OF THE LYDIA DIAMOND CAPER, BUT JURGEN WAS NO BYSTANDER

This much is certain: he definitely plays the part. Chewing on his liver, Jorgens had



By then, however, the Ontario Securities Commission was half hearted on hunting the royal. OSC staff discovered that the von Arnolds had violated (and not complied for) private company, selling far too many shares to far too many people. Forensic investiga-

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LIVING IN luxury, he came out also's house

FAME DOESN'T SELL

New research suggests celebrity endorsements are losing their appeal

BY JASON KIRBY • What's a struggling advertiser to do when it wants to just sell? Bring in a celebrity, of course. A couple of years ago Ford Motor Co. tapped Funkmaster Flex, a New York radio DJ and urban car culture "evangelist," to be its spokesman for the campaign really kicked into high gear this month. There's the new Funkmaster Flex customized Expedition SUV, talk of a Ford-trailer Flex Mustang, and if that wasn't enough Flexo holds the blood of young males, the company released its concept crossover vehicle the Ford Flex. Next up, reportedly, the limited edition Funkmaster Flex Flex.

Companies have long turned to the top names in sports and entertainment to sell their wares. Today it's common for advertisers to shell out tens of millions of dollars in return for mere product placement. It's well known how much Flex is getting paid for this, though a few years ago Chrysler paid Cedric the Entertainer to endorse the Pacific before his own car came to their senses and killed the deal. But a new study by researchers in Britain and Switzerland suggests most companies don't get their money's worth from the stars posing with their products.

That's because when people are deciding which products to buy, the study found, they are more motivated by keeping up with the Joneses than with the use of much life styles of the rich and famous.

The researchers combed out names of stars on nearly 200 stations in Switzerland and Germany, showing them ads related to a digital camera—some endorsed by a fictional student, while others used actual egotisticals from celebrities. The results showed 50 percent of students who admitted they were susceptible to peer pressure were influenced by the fake student's endorsement, while only 20 percent said the celebrity pitch had any effect on them. The rest of the students, who said they rely only on technical specifications when deciding what to buy, barely paid attention to either of them.

The notion fits in with the current of the advertising world. The long-held belief has been that the celebrity shows rubs off on the

products and services they're endorsing, making them more attractive to shoppers. "Selling ad agencies and consumer spend millions to get celebrities to give endorsements," says Brett Martin, a professor with the University of Bath's School of Management. "Our research found people are more attracted by an endorsement from an ordinary person like themselves."

Not that Penn Jillette or Gayle Miller are quaking in their stardom just yet. Like some researchers suspect our current obsession with celebrity may be a declining force, which could throw a wrench into the marketing plans of many companies. Grimsby McCreary, the Canadian author of *Culture and Consumerism* and a cultural anthropologist affiliated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, wrote recently about the rise of "cultural lag." He thinks we could see a backlash against the cult of celebrity worship that has built up over the decades. "Contemporary culture has a way of waiting things to death," McCreary wrote. "And eventually our materialism wanes, and eventually we're gone. It's enough, already."

Perhaps as a result of celebrity saturation, more companies are turning to focus their analysis and race celebrities on their "likeability" and power to influence purchasing decisions. One company, Marketing Emulation



FORD MOTOR SIGNED A DEAL WITH NEW YORK DJ FUNKMASTER FLEX TO REIGNITE ITS BRAND IMAGE

New York, regularly conducts research on thousands of celebrities and assigns them scores. "Companies have to be very careful when using a celebrity, especially because with technology these days a lot of celebrities are getting unexposed," says Jillette's brother, the company's creative vice-president. "Demand is definitely increasing for this kind of data."

Martin, the Bath professor, says he's not suggesting celebrity pitches never work. But for many companies, high profile stars are the only option they consider when developing an advertising strategy. "Our research shows there is an alternative available," he says. And the name's not Flex. ■

MACLEAN'S SPORT

Spring 2007

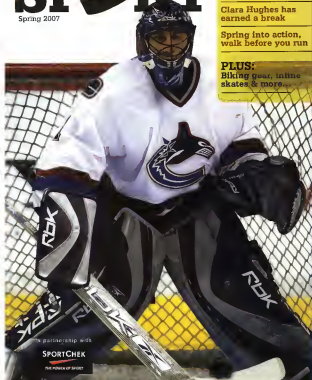
INSIDE:

It's all about (HOPE) in the NHL

Clara Hughes has earned a break

Spring into action, walk before you run

PLUS:
Biking gear, inline skates & more...



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW DALLA LARUE, GETTY IMAGES

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(HOPE)

We are all lost without it And in the no longer new National Hockey League, now two full seasons removed from the darkness, hope is indeed everything!

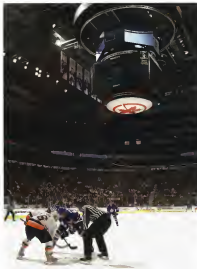
It is, in large part, why the league did the unthinkable two years ago and closed its doors for a full year, exiting the ignominy of becoming the first professional sports league to suspend play for that long by choice because of a labor dispute. But then, no pain, no gain, right? From out of the darkness the NHL emerged with a new economic order, a salary-cap scheme they said would guarantee fiscal responsibility, balance and parity. Hope, in other words.

And it was all being done for the fans, if you accepted the sales pitch. With the economic party would come, of course, competitive parity. The rich teams would no longer be able to simply buy the best high-priced players and win it all their worst high-priced mistakes. The rules were pretty much the same for everyone.

That the union was peeved to be beaten in the proceedings, that the hard-nosed executive director, Bob Goodenow, was ousted and general manager et al. as happening in the NHLPA, with Goodenow's replacement, Ted Saskin, embroiled in controversy from within, was only an added bonus, if not one of the unintended goals when the NHL started its lockout.

Indeed, Saskin and his top assistant, Ken Kim, are both on paid leave, while the players have retained a lawyer to determine the pair's future (wondering how their departure from the PA will be handled), while an internal investigation into the operation of the union continues.

Even that strangle of the notion of hope, in a way, at least for the owners and commissioner Gary Bettman, who have gained complete control.



"We have phenomenal competitive balance with the salary cap and revenue sharing."

—Gary Bettman

HOPE

"I think our league is healthier in a lot of respects," Bettman said recently, not specifically addressing the PA. "Most of our clubs are making money and the teams that are losing money are losing less. We have phenomenal competitive balance with the salary cap and revenue sharing. No matter what team you are a fan of, you know you have a shot. That's the best thing any sports league can give the fans." Indeed, there was plenty of it last year returning from the lockout, you might recall. The league boasted of setting an all-time attendance record. The new interpretation of the rule book, the removal of the red line and a commitment to allow skilled players to thrive through a crackdown on obstruction led to increased scoring and more flow to the game.

Revenues bounced back too enough to allow for the salary cap to grow from \$30 million per team to \$44 million this past season, though some would argue increased ticket prices had an impact in that regard. The expectation is that the cap number will increase by at least a few more million for next season as the new collective bargaining agreement forged an apparent partnership between the owners and players, a guarantee of revenues going towards on-ice salaries.

"The spirit of the partnership is what we've envisioned and is clearly something that we think is important for the game as we move forward," Bettman said.

On the ice last season's playoff races were tight with the four finalists—Colorado Hurricanes and Buffalo Sabres in the east, Edmonton Oilers and Anaheim Ducks in the west—the poster kids for those who couldn't previously spend their way to success, suddenly green boys and a glimpse in the new world order.

"They were all non-playoff teams the year before," said Oiler coach Doug MacDermid, whose team finished eighth in the conference a year ago and went to the Stanley Cup final, then missed the playoffs entirely this year. "It speaks to the parity of the league. You have to be



**Fan support came back strong!
Attendance came back strong!**

on this side of it, but on the other side there's the fact that there's tremendous opportunity to turn things around in a hurry."

The same dramatic turnaround hit the Stanley Cup champion Hurricanes this past season as they fought down the stretch to avoid, paired with Edmonton, becoming the first champion and finalist to together miss the playoffs the following season.

"Everything is so close," MacDermid said. "There's great opportunity but there's also great vulnerability and both our teams are poster examples of that."

Added Hurricanes coach Peter Laviolette, "For you to tell me that right (when the Hurricanes won the Cup) that we would have been in a battle with our conference to win hockey games and make the playoffs, I don't think it would have dropped me [sic]. I would have just thought that we have to keep on fighting because there is a lot of parity in the league."

"The bottom line is... everybody is finding out that no matter where you sit in the standings, you will get one tough game... there are no lay-ups, there are no easy games. You have got to compete slightly in order to be successful."

That same parity gripped the NHL this past season, with the playoff

aces and seeding coming down to the final weekend, in one case the final shot.

According to Bettman, who tends to see cups, Stanley or otherwise, half full, everything is pretty much unfolding as expected. "For the most part it's working the way we had anticipated," he said. "Revenues came back strong. Fan support came back strong. Attendance came back strong. Competitive balance has been terrific. And we're paying the exact percentage that the collective bargaining agreement calls for. So it's working the way we had hoped."

Now, parity and mediocrity can often blend together, though that is also in the eye of the beholder. But there is no denying that at the start of the year virtually every team believed it had a chance and certainly on the eve of the playoffs, especially after the Oilers' magical run last spring that they can get to the final and perhaps win. That probably accounts for why the past two trade deadlines, which were pushed back into 28 to 40 days from the end of the regular season, have been the busiest ever with teams unloading pending unrestricted free agents to clear the financial deficit for the summer, selling off to teams that think they can win.

Article continued >

Cycling Gear Guide

Exploring the latest in wheels from function and form to comfort.



URBAN RIDE

Vision Mango > \$279.99

This bike is all about giving you the most comfortable ride possible.

- Features:
- Suspension seat post to take the edge off rough surfaces
 - Adjustable alloy stem to allow the rider to find the most comfortable upright position
 - Spring loaded rear rack



Iron Horse Adventure 1.3 > \$299.99

A Hybrid bike which combines the comfort and versatility of a mountain bike with the speediness of a road bike.

- Features:
- Suspension seat post to take the edge off rough surfaces
 - Adjustable alloy stem to allow the rider to find the most comfortable upright position
 - Linear pull brakes for improved braking power



MOUNTAIN BIKES

K2 Zed DS Aluminum > \$349.99

This is a recreational, multi-purpose dual suspension mountain bike.

- Features:
- Front and rear shocks to provide the necessary comfort and control to take on any terrain
 - Linear pull brakes for improved braking power



K2 T-Nine Trailhead > \$349.99

This mountain bike was specifically designed for the needs of a woman.

- Features:
- Women's specific aluminum frame - size-tuned tubing reduces weight and adds comfort for smaller riders
 - Sober suspension fork springs to allow lighter riders to fully benefit from the suspension fork
 - Women's specific saddle and small diameter grips for increased comfort and control



All products featured are available at Sport Chek, but may not be available in all local areas. Prices shown are Sport Chek current prices at time of publication and may be subject to change.

Iron Horse Warrior 3.3 > \$599.99

A hardtail mountain bike for the intermediate to serious rider.

- Features:
- Oversized aluminum frame which is strong, durable, and lighter than a comparable steel frame
 - Rock Shox Dart suspension fork offering performance front suspension for comfort and control
 - Hayes AX-4 mechanical disc brakes - performance coils actuated disc brakes for improved braking power in all conditions



ACCESSORIES



Groozer 535, 3-in-1 double child stroller, jogger and bicycle trailer > \$479.99

Doberman lock
> 8mm \$19.99, 12mm \$24.99



Nokamura Speed 100 > \$24.99

Colours

SPORTCHEK



But the cap system has inspired considerable player movement, with more to come as the age on unrestricted free agency drops. And with success and player development, the cost of signing players continues to rise, but under a cap only so many players fit.

It in part explains why the Oilers traded away star Ryan Smyth, reducing to around \$5 million of cap space to the winger.

"The CBA we operate within the NHL today means you need to have a sound hockey strategy and stick to it," Oilers general manager Kevin Lowe said.

All of which means players will change teams, which in some cases will cause angst, but in most it will create hope. And increased program sales.

There are some who would argue that prior to the lockout there was no shortage of hope, that the big spending teams didn't always win and the teams in the final four were changing yearly. What was different, though, is there was no control of spending league wide, no cost certainty. No imposed hope. But it came at a steep price, with a lost season.

Over the past season, the second post-lockout, the league continued to boost sold attendance figures, marginally off they said from last season when a year of delirious whetted appetites as did the rule changes and new game. However, while some cities experienced attendance growth, there still were alarms ringing in deserted arenas, some of them Original Six cities such as Boston and Chicago, which were still noticeably struggling at the pole. And in some cases where tickets were sold, such as Detroit, seats weren't being filled. And then there were the likes of Nashville, trying stop the league but struggling to fill its arena and build corporate support. Not all was rosy attendance-wise.

Witness the Nashville Predators recently picking up Peter Forsberg and Atlanta acquiring Keith Tkachuk, among others. In the previous world, neither would have been renting players at the deadline.



"We won't waver on the standards we have set."

-NHL senior vice-president of hockey operations Mike Murphy.

"You know, what's interesting is last year we set an attendance record," Bettman said. "And this year, while I know there's been a lot of speculation about attendance attendance has gotten stronger every month."

Regardless, the product is still the thing that drives the revenues and the attendance and the interest. At various points this past season, debates raged on about the quality of the game, of whether there were too many - or too few - fringe calls. Scoring fell off marginally compared to a year ago, but part of that was attributed to a vast reduction in power plays. The critics and critics argue that when scoring does go down, the mandate goes out to increase the penalties and the power plays and, by extension, the scoring.

"We won't waver on the standards we have set," said NHL senior vice-president of hockey operations Mike Murphy. "But we try to fine tune to make the game better, to reduce some of the soft penalties that frustrate coaches and players and us. But we won't get away from those standards."

"As far as the service product is concerned, we continue to be pleased with the results," said Bettman.

Under the category some things never change, at the end of the season, the league was hit with a few controversies. Two star players, Buffalo's Chris Drury and Toronto's Tomas Kaberle, suffered concussions after absorbing shoulder hits to the head in the first instance. The hit was declared clean, in the second it was ruled late and a suspension was issued. Overall, there is a clamoring for all head shots to be eliminated, something that could affect the physical nature of the game.

"When the general managers met in the fall, we showed them a bunch of those kinds of hits, clean hits but shoulders on head and they were unanimous that no one had among players getting hurt, but that they were good hits," Murphy said. "Late hits, where a player has moved the puck then gets cracked a few seconds after, there is no place for that. But I

think we're going to have to get a stronger direction from the managers moving forward."

The league was also rocked on March 8th, the third anniversary of the Todd Bertuzzi attack on Steve Moore, with a vicious stick incident in which New York Islanders Chris Barton took a two-hand slash to the chin of New York Rangers Ryan Miller. It was a brutal play that

ensued, as you would suspect. As for the future, the NHL has seen it and it looks aggressive with the likes of Sidney Crosby, who at 19 became the youngest to reach 200 career points and led the league in scoring. Evgeni Malkin and Jordan Staal leading the way in Pittsburgh, last year's rookie of the year Alexander Ovechkin starring in Washington, and rugged



"This is an exciting time. A tremendously exciting time."

-Gary Bettman

earned Simon a minimum 25-game suspension, but the league was quick to point out it was only the second match penalty assessed all season and suspensions overall are down by almost half year to year. Still, one incident of its kind is one too many and the source of headlines south of the border.

In subsequent days and weeks, more players left the ice on stretchers. Dallas Stars Stephane Robidas was cold-cocked by Nashville's Jordan Tootoo, who was suspended five games. Philadelphia's Todd Fedoruk and Atlanta's Jon Jon were both felled in fights, which prompted NHL senior vice-president Colin Campbell to suggest he thought it was time the league reviewed fighting and its role in the game. A fierce debate

defenceman Don Proulx of a big hit in Calgary.

The existing schedule makes preventing everyone in the league from seeing those players at least once, and this will be an issue next season, but there was no denying the league emerged from the lockout with a handful or more of good, young players to grow around. Not since Gretzky and Lefkova have they had two players of the prominence and caliber of Crosby and Ovechkin.

"We're blessed with having an incredible crop of young players," Bettman said. "This is an exciting time. Tremendously exciting time."

It is all about HOPE

And there is hope for the league itself, but still plenty of work.

"Nike Air Max Moto+ IV is one of Nike's franchise running models, with a history of excellent cushioning both with Max Air in the heel and Zoom Air in the forefoot. This year's Air Max Moto+ IV is now "plus competent", which means that if you purchase the Nike IPOD in your shoe can talk to your IPOD Nano, giving you the ability to measure your workouts."



Nike Air Max Moto+ IV
➤ \$129.99

"Mizuno takes another quantum leap in the running category with the new Mizuno Wave Creation 8, which has the new revolutionary technology Invisi Wave. The Wave Creation 8 will now utilize 33% less foam than previous models resulting in more durable cushioning, better rebound and an exceptional ride."



Mizuno Wave Creation 8
➤ \$179.99

"Asics 2120 is one of the best-selling technical running shoes Sport Chek comes because it is suitable to many runners due to its incredible support and cushioning."



Asics 2120
➤ \$159.99

"Now from athletic and exclusive to Sport Chek is the adiZero Breeze. This new lightweight runner is made for someone who wants to run fast and stay cool. The adiZero Breeze comes with ClimaCool technology which allows it to breathe exceptionally well, and the low profile styling with the adiBENE+ cushioning system makes it feel like you are wearing nothing at all, while still giving you excellent cushioning."



adiZero Breeze
➤ \$99.99

"If you plan on blowing down some mileage, the New Balance 767 could be the shoe for you. The 767 is one of the top shoes on the market for support, but will give you lots of cushioning with its ABCORB technology."



New Balance 767
➤ \$139.99

"Saucony Pro Grid Triumph 4 comes equipped with the brand new Pro Grid technology which maximizes cushioning seamlessly from heel strike through toe off."



Saucony Pro Grid Triumph 4
➤ \$159.99

Design on shoes

Eric Watt, Purchasing Director of Footwear at Sport Chek, has selected some of the best in the latest running and training footwear in Sport Chek's vast assortment.



"New Balance 846 is the everyday shoe for the everyday runner with great fit and great performance. The 846 is another shoe that does not sacrifice cushioning even though it offers great stability."



New Balance 846
➤ \$129.99

"Asics Nimbus is the shoe for you if cushioning is what you are after. The Solystic 45 material from the midfoot to heel absorbs shock, cushions, and integrates the neutral to underpronating active runner."



Asics Nimbus
➤ \$189.99

"New Balance 1000 is a great shoe to start your workout on the treadmill and then move on to the weights. The shoe features ABCORB cushioning and a Stability Web for torsion control."



New Balance 1000
➤ \$119.99

"To control the puck you must have great strength - to have great strength you must workout. Sydney Crosby works out in the Off-Ice Trainer from Reebok."



Reebok Crosby Off-Ice Trainer
➤ \$99.99

All products featured are available at Sport Chek, but may not be available in all locations. Prices shown are Sport Chek current prices & may differ from actual retail prices.

SPORTCHEK



ATHLETE BIO



**CLARA
ANNE
HUGHES**

AGE > 34
STATUS > Married
BIRTH DATE > Sept 27, 1972
NATIVE COUNTRY > Canada
SPORT > Speed skating, cycling

PAVE BIKE TRAIL >

Cycling in the Eastern Townships of Quebec—where I live! Specifically, starting in the Sutton area and riding in any direction—it's some of my favorite riding in the world!

A WORD OF ADVICE >

Follow your bliss! Know what it's like to dream and to go after those dreams as if your life depended on it. When you have passion for something there is no chance but to pursue it—when you feel it in your heart and every cell of your body, this is the bliss you need to follow!

LIFE ACCOMPLISHMENT >

Raising almost half a million dollars for Right to Play after the Torino Olympics. Winning gold was nice but it pales in comparison to what Canadians helped me do when they learned of the fantastic programs of RTP that I firmly believe can help make the world a better, safer place for so many children born into poverty and war.

by Scott Morrison

GOLD MEDALIST 2006



Clara Hughes hadn't won her home in Quebec's Eastern Townships since last August, but the first thing the Olympic athlete had planned for when the recent World Cup speed skating season ended in March was another trip, this time to the deserts of the American Southwest.

"My husband is driving down here right now and we're actually heading out into the desert for a little while," she said from Salt Lake City, Utah, where she wrapped up her year at the ISU World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships. "I really love the desert and we're going to get away from everything and everyone and take some time to breathe."

Though she didn't win any World Cup races this season, Hughes

has earned a break. It's been a whirlwind 12 months since the 34-year-old Winnipeg native captured Canada with her gold-medal performance in the women's 5,000m speed skats at the Turin Winter Olympics in 2006. She also won a silver medal in the women's team pursuit at those Olympics, becoming the only athlete ever to win multiple medals at both a Winter and Summer Games. (She won two bronzes for cycling at the Summer Games in Atlanta in 1996.)

Since Turin, she has traveled the world, from Asia and Europe for competitions, to Africa with the charitable organization Right to Play demonstrating that, whatever else she does, she will not rest on her laurels.

Article continues >

Over 100 career victories in the sport of cycling

Four-time Olympian, speed skating and cycling, 5-time Olympic medalist

- ★ Olympic gold medalist in 5000m and silver medalist in team pursuit in 2006
- ★ Seven world cup medals in speed skating
- ★ Eight world championship medals, speed skating
- ★ Only athlete in history to win multiple medals at both summer and winter Olympics

- ★ Selected as Speed Skating Canada's 2004 Female Skater of the Year - Long Track
- ★ Gold medalist in the 5000m at the 2004 World Single Distances Championships
- ★ 2003 Pan American Games gold, silver and bronze medalist in road and track cycling
- ★ 2002 Commonwealth Games Gold and bronze medalist in road and track cycling
- ★ Olympic bronze medalist in the 5000m at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics

- ★ Double Bronze medalist at 1998 Olympics in cycling (Road race and time trial)
- ★ Prologue winner in 1994 Women's Tour de France
- ★ 1991, 1995 Pan American Games silver and bronze medalist (in both)
- ★ 18 time National Champion, cycling, road and track
- ★ Over 100 career victories in the sport of cycling

Article continues >



>Chase Hughes Athlete Rep. quote.

In the weeks of your Olympic victory, seems how this past season has gone for you.

>"It's been very interesting. Before this season my coach, [Kirk Wong] and I sat down and talked about what I wanted. I realized that my training was not ideal because I had been so busy since the Olympics it had definitely had an effect on the amount of energy I was able to put into my job, my training. So I went to a couple of sprint World Cups in Asia—and anybody who knows me knows I shouldn't be at a sprint World Cup because I'm not a sprinter [Laughs]. I've had some really good races this year and I've had some races where my brain just wasn't working. I'd finish and I'd think, 'What was that?' I think more than anything I was focused on enjoying skating and making sure that this is still what I like to do."

That gesture that you made after winning your gold medal—donating \$25,000 to Right to Play—had a profound effect in Canada and was written about extensively. You don't seem to crave the spotlight, so did that kind of attention make you uncomfortable?

>"What made me uncomfortable was it was the difference it was making. Even before I got home, I got cards and mail from parents, from children, asking how they could help. I realized how big this had become and the impact that it had, particularly on young people. Somehow, children were understanding that other children, in other parts of the world weren't allowed to play. And for me this was the most powerful thing, to see in young Canadians that awareness built off the human condition. There is another end of the spectrum that is so dreadful there's just so much suffering."

You then had a chance to go to Africa last spring with Right to Play. Describe that experience.

>"What was really beautiful was seeing the courage of so many young people that are up against odds that are so great. They really don't have much of a chance, but they have this courage and dignity. I think of sport and I think of people talking athletes we are so courageous and I feel like, compared to the life situation of most people, what I do is a great luxury. It really is."

Looking ahead to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, how important is it for you to skate in Canada in the Olympics?

>"It's a dream. For an athlete, there is nothing greater than the opportunity to try to make a team to compete in your own country in an Olympics. It's just an awesome opportunity that I truly hope I am able to experience. To go into an Olympics in Canada as defending Olympic champion is something that I think is pretty special."

How does winning a gold medal compare to winning your first medal, a bronze for cycling in Atlanta in 1996?

>"It's totally different. I can look at five Olympic medals and each one is just so totally different. My first Olympic medal in cycling, what I remember most from that day is standing on the starting line for the first time at an Olympics. That's what sticks with me more. I'll never forget that feeling I had of millions of people made of me pushing me forward. I remember standing on the line with the maple leaf on my back just thinking, 'I am Canada today.' It was the most exhilarating, most motivating thing I had ever felt in my life. It's something I've had the gift of experiencing time and again, but that first time was incredible."

Of the two sports, cycling and skating, is there one you enjoy more than the other?

>"I think I enjoy both of the sports because they are so different, not just physically but mentally. One

thing about skating—I mean I love it and hate it because of that—the technical side in cycling, I always know that no matter how I'm feeling, I can sit on my bike and my legs will work and I will produce a result. Whereas in skating, I can have the form of my life, superhuman strength and super motivation, and then I start a race and technically I don't skate well and it's the most frustrating thing because... I have everything here and I can't get it out of myself."



"Sometimes I really miss racing my bikes because of that. I think, if I could just sit on my bike today and pump out wattage, it would be pretty awesome. [Laughs]"

Why did you ultimately switch back to skating at the age of 28?

>"I started skating after seeing Gaojun Gaojun skate [at the Calgary Winter Olympics] in 1988. My dream literally began on that day. One day I knew in my heart I was going to skate for Canada, and cycling is something that kind of got in the way, for about 10 years. That whole time I was a cyclist. I knew that I had to go back to skating to pursue my dream."

"The Sydney Olympics [in 2000] were really difficult because I was quite ill and one of my teammates [Rosaie Reinhardt of the U.S.] was killed in a crash on a race night days before the road race and that was a life-altering thing for me. I was still young and thinking one day I'd go back to skating, and later Ricki, who was only 24, told me, 'You know, Chase, you really have to do what's in your heart right now because it can be over very fast. So when I finished those Olympics I said, 'Okay, I'm going to try to be a speed skater now.' I had to reconsider what my dreams were and find the courage to pursue them."

Designs on Inline Skates

A women's fitness skate designed for the intermediate to advanced female skater who was inline skating as this journey weekend activity. Its leather light frame is designed to put you in the proper skating stance. The fit is set up with your weight over the balls of your feet for fast, powerful skating.

K2 Axiom Speed > \$199.99



This comfortable women's skate is for the novice skater who needs comfort above everything. The unique inboard outer material causes ideal power transmission combined with maximum comfort. The new high-ride nylon chassis encourages the best position for easy turning.

Finley Solario > \$89.99



The Rollerblade Wing 50 is designed for women by women. This skate is comfortable and supportive with a lightweight shell design. It features an innovative 3 step adjustable brake.

Rollerblade Wing 50 > \$179.99



All products featured are available at Sport Chek, but may not be available in all locations. Prices shown are Sport Chek online prices at time of print and may be subject to change.

This skate is designed for the beginner male skater looking for a stable and comfortable skate. Designed for maneuverability and stability, the longboard frame absorbs road vibration and lowers one's center of gravity for a smooth controlled ride.

K2 SX2 > \$129.99



This recreational skate is essential for the male skater who doesn't want to compromise on quality or fit. This highly effective one pull locking system and strap stop securely and comfortably hold the skater's foot in place. The high/low chassis ensures the best balance of stability or well as maneuverability.

Finley SP300 > \$89.99



This skate is designed for recreational and fitness skaters who want high-end technical features and great performance. The Aero TFS offers the maximum performance, comfort and fit. This skate also incorporates Rollerblade's revolutionary "Total Fit System" which enables an exact fit every time by adjusting to the contours of your foot.

Rollerblade Aura TFS > \$189.99

SPORTCHEK



(GET FIT)

Spring has sprung. Which means it's time for new bicycles, in-line skates and good old-fashioned running shoes.

Which also means scrapes, bruises and pulled muscles won't be far behind. Now, it's hard to guard against scrapes and bruises—after all, talent and coordination cannot be taught. But pulled muscles are a different story.

The secret to a healthy, enjoyable spring—heck, it applies to all four seasons—is, put simply, learn to walk before you run.

"The majority of injuries we see are from what we call an over-use, or too much, too soon syndrome," says Dr. Michael Clarfield, director of the Sports Medicine Specialists in Toronto, the largest sports medicine clinic in Canada. "If people have been hibernating all winter and not doing a lot, they get over-eager when the springtime with the good weather, and what they end up doing is pushing their bodies too hard by either the intensity or the quantity of the exercise or recreation of choice."

Clarfield knows of what he speaks, and not just because of the degrees from the University of Toronto on the wall. He was a team doctor for the Toronto Maple Leafs for 16 years, and is now company physician for the National Ballet of Canada and team physician for the Canadian national lacrosse team. His own fitness regimen includes running, cycling, golf, skiing, boarding, tennis and hockey.

He's quick to point out that no one injury is predominant. "It really depends on what sport or activity people are doing," he says. "If the body is going to break down, it's going to break down."

"In spring," he adds, "people tend to go outside more, as opposed to just being lazy because we're busy all year-round. People who

aren't kids, or who are getting older, suddenly get active and are more prone to injuries than, say, younger people who have been active on a more regular basis and have not hibernated during winter."

Clarfield suggests people plan carefully before they go bounding off. "People have to set realistic goals for themselves, either ver-

bally or even writing down their goals for what they want to accomplish. Then you can get a plan of how to accomplish those goals. So, if they want to run a 10-km race, let's say in July, then they have to look at what their fitness level is now and come up with a realistic goal, either with themselves or an expert. People also need to ensure health

problems or previous injuries have been dealt with. And more. "They have to ensure that their nutrition is proper. I think it's important that they cross all the Ts and dot all the Is [of their fitness regimen]."

That is even more important, Clarfield cautions, for someone who is entirely new to their recreational pursuit, regardless of how involved they intend to be. Even the casual participant has to have a plan to avoid injury and, especially, to make it fun.

"People more used to being active have a good idea of how their body is going to respond to these things and what they have to do," says Clarfield, the first physician to produce sports medicine full time in Toronto. "People who have been inactive for a long period of time, they have more muscle weaknesses and structures that can break down easier. They might not understand their bodies as well."

As for advice for the average person looking to start a regimen, Clarfield is not a big believer in recommending one activity over another.

"Sometimes previous injuries might preclude someone from doing a particular activity," he says, "but if someone is healthy and doesn't have any previous problems, then I think it's important they choose an activity they are going to enjoy, that they will maintain and do that on a proper basis. Often, someone's body will do better if they choose several activities and mix and match things."

"But I think people need to give their bodies a chance to respond to whatever activity they have chosen. Do something on alternate days. Take 48 hours between [activities] to allow their body to recover. Say, for example if you are going to run, it makes no sense to do anything for a long period of time. Even have them do some walking first and do a walk/run program and progress into the running, as opposed to



"People have to set realistic goals for themselves, either verbally or even writing down their goals for what they want to accomplish."

going straight into the running."

Choosing to have an active lifestyle may seem obvious, but many Canadians don't do it. Almost two-thirds of citizens are inactive. According to a recent Statistics Canada report, eight per cent of children aged 2 to 11 were obese and another 18 per cent were deemed overweight in 2004. That's up dramatically from 1976 when the numbers were three per cent and 12 per cent respectively. On its website, pheac.ca, the federal government's Public Health Agency of Canada offers some solutions for people looking to get fit.

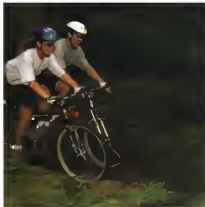


For children and families, the site has a number of "Physical Activity Guides," offering strategies for getting fit. As always, though, people should consult their doctor for individual advice.

For older folks, the PHAC solutions are as simple as taking up birdwatching, walking regularly with a child or grandchild, or taking the stairs instead of an elevator. There is even an example of a daily schedule that demonstrates just how easy it can be to build activity into one's daily routine.

For instance, one day's activity might be changing the linens on the beds in the morning, meeting up with a birdwatching group in the afternoon, and walking 10 minutes to a friend's house in the evening. Another day might be walking to the grocery store and then some simple weight training with soup cans.

It's all about preparation. And learning to walk before you run. ♦



"Plan carefully before you go bounding!"

—Dr. Michael Clarfield

Get Your Gear Together

Nike Drift FreshLine Cap > \$37.99

Not only does a cap help protect your head and eyes from the sun while running, it can keep sweat from dripping into your eyes. If you select a cap with a moisture-wicking fabric:

Oakley Response S/S Top > \$34.99

Run in synthetic layers. Keep in mind even when the weather is cool, once you get moving it will rise 3-10 degrees warmer than it is. Layering is ideal in colder weather so you have the option of removing layers when your body heats up.

How often should you change your footgear? The general rule of thumb is after approx. every 300 km of use. As the insoles tend to lose their effectiveness at this point. This may vary depending on your weight and the material used in the shoe.

Nike Air Max Vapor IV > \$129.99

Everything you need to hit the road on foot

Polar RS100 Running Computer > \$129.99

It is extremely important to pace yourself properly during exercise. Larger heart rates (220 minus your age is your maximum heart rate) let you measure your individual heart level and monitor your progress in a fitness program. Measure your pulse periodically as you exercise and stay within 20 to 85 percent of your maximum heart rate.

Nike Drift 9" Running Short > \$49.99

The correct running apparel will help with moisture away from your skin, allowing perspiration buildup which can cool on your skin and lead to chills when you stop. Ensure that your running apparel allows unrestricted movement so that you can't be impeded in any way.

Nike iPod & Sport Kit > \$39.00

Under Armour Striker Jacket > \$59.99

Under Armour HeatGear Runner's Jockeys Sock (2 Pk) > \$17.99

Salomon Hydro Ball 45 > \$29.99

SPORTCHEK

And now, the Bell tolls for BCE

Takeover rumours are swirling, but who can fix the lumbering giant?

BY JASON KERRY • When Alexander Graham Bell died in 1917, it was said that he had no idea of the wonder it would eventually unleash—mass communications, globalization, and a knock-down, dragged-out, open-ended bidding war for Canada's lumbering phone giant BCE. Those asking Mr. Bell haven't limited their bids yet. But it's expected BCE could ultimately fetch more than \$31 billion, making it one of the largest buyouts in history. And then come the real questions.

In the almost seven years since Michael Sibus was named chief executive, BCE has been a perennial gladder, and a new owner ship structure won't solve all its many ills. Analysts say a major restructuring. Likely to include major job cuts, is in order regardless of who winds up buying the company. "Even if you're the smartest person funded or well-managed, the problems Sibus faced aren't going away," says Ian Grant, a telecom writer with Seaboard Group. "I hope they're coming onto this with their eyes open."

For now, dollar a year in their eyes. The Ontario Teachers Pension Plan, which owns five per cent of BCE's stock, got fed up watching the share price flounder and triggered the buyout talks. An alphabet soup of pension funds and high-powered U.S. private equity investors, including Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. (KKR), soon piled in. All have pockets deep enough to do a deal, which could be announced any day now.

They'll need every penny they've got. BCE's copper wires, which served it well for a century, has T-tied it now. The company has started to look for new business using fibre optic cables, but even that often looks like a long-term bet. Videotext used to fill out a super-high-speed Internet service to residential customers in Quebec that will be three times faster than what BCE plans to offer. Grant figures BCE needs to invest billions of dollars more just to stay in the race. At the same time, it's losing tens of thousands of traditional phone customers every quarter to cheaper Internet phone offerings. Admittedly, those are the kind of odd private equity investors wake up for each year.

For now, the main question is: who can fix the lumbering giant? BCE has a long history of being a slow mover, and its stock price has been a slow mover. But Sibus has already done much of the easy work, slashing 4,000 jobs and refocusing the business. Analysts say it will take more than just a takeover to make the big return beyond that payoff.

That's why the name Telsus keeps coming up.

'EVEN IF YOU'RE THE SMARTEST VULTURE CAPITALIST, [BCE'S] PROBLEMS AREN'T GOING AWAY'



TELSUS CEO Garrett Buehler is a strong rival, but he'll have to up the ante to win the BCE wireless business.

Some observers think a better strategy is for one or more of the funds to team up with the Vancouver-based phone and Internet company to make a bid. Such a deal would allow for deeper cost savings or as they say in the merger world, "synergies"—while giving the company more cash. And analysts simply love what CEO Dennis Fawcett has done with Telsus. "At some point," says Grant,

it will be an. Every quarter, executives have had to go before investors and parlay their every move. Being privately owned would allow BCE to make dramatic changes for the long term. "A private BCE will be a far more effective competitor than a BCE that has to provide no-deposit debtless returns," says Grant. Which means that once investors won't have Michael Sibus to look around anymore. ■



ADVICE TO DOCTOR: DON'T PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD
Going to a pub with fellow professionals is fun, even more so when you're in costume. Dressed as Captain America, Dr. Raymond Ashmore of Florida dropped by a bar on the weekend with other medical professionals. Police say Ashmore had placed a bounty on his pants (indicating starting women to touch it). When one refused, he groped her. Police arrested and found Captain America with something labeled "Barry's Supreme" stuffed in his boot.



JOHN INGLIS AT HIS COTTAGE: The teacher who was rarely photographed without a drink or cigarette would play his students with booze

THE MASTER SEDUCER

Students and parents loved him. Years later the true details about the cottage came out.

BY MARK BOHROUSE • In the spring of last year, with no media presence to put claims to his good name, John Inglis walked into Courtroom 404 in Toronto's College Park courthouse with his lawyers. Todd White, partner of famed criminal defense attorney Eddie Grossman, and walked into a crowded courtroom. The passion of publicity, however, had been successfully avoided. Inglis would be under house arrest for the next 15 months, but there would be no jail. His name would be related to the Sex Offender Registry, and he would have to surrender a sample of his DNA. But who would know?

Since preliminary hearings cannot be reported, they are rarely covered unless the case has major headline value should a conviction occur. And so because the case of Regina vs. Inglis seemed to lack this outlet, not a single reporter was in the courtroom when Crown

attorney Glen Craig and Todd White agreed to let John Inglis's lie. And not a single photographer would outside.

A plea bargain, having been struck in advance behind closed doors, there was no legal out and then to witness as Inglis's preliminary hearing came to an abrupt end, and no victims present to watch this former private-school math teacher—a self-proclaimed counselor of all previous damage—plead guilty to sexually assaulting the young boys who had been so concerned of him they gave him a warm, sounding nickname that was a play on his name. They nicknamed him 'Ingle'.

The abuse he inflicted on the students all happened at Rapture Lake, outside of Blue Creek, Ont., where John Inglis had a water access cottage. It was there, for almost a decade, he would bring the victims he would prey upon—young and training boys with good names from good families—all students at Toronto's prestigious Cranbrook School, a private school for boys where he taught and counseled and coached.

There was one victim, however, who would

never be called to testify against Inglis about the sexual abuse he endured as a young boy back in the '50s when, like other young boys from Cranbrook School before him and after him, including his younger brother, he went to Rapture Lake to help build Inglis's log cottage. On Jan. 3, 1997—seven years before Inglis was finally arrested, and on the night he was supposed to meet that same brother to see Phantoms of the Opera—the potential witness went to his Toronto apartment and hung himself.

"He had been diagnosed with schizophrenia six months before this," his brother said. "And while I cannot tell you that what John Inglis did to him, or to me, had anything to do with my brother's schizophrenia, I can tell you that John Inglis did everything to do with the victim my brother was suffering to his heart, and every night I would be murdered."

"Two weeks before he took his own life, he had asked me out of the blue if John Inglis had abused me, too. I had someone blooded in my mind until that moment, and then I just came back. Nothing I know, I am walking into my brother's apartment, worried

about why he had shown up for Phantoms, and there he is, hanging from a chair up bar in the corner of his room. How's that for a permanent one? When I see my brother hanging there, I see John Inglis."

Today Inglis, now 61, lives under house arrest in St. Catharines, Ont., in a house that once belonged to famed Canadian center Murray Webber, once a winner of the World Curling Championships. His house without a single window facing the street. Despite the fact John Inglis paid \$165,000 for it back in 2000—the house was bought under his wife's name four years before the dad of cancer—his backyard affords a million-dollar view of Rapture Lake, one of the world's most renowned Royal Canadian Mounted Police and all the schooling rising teams that came with it. For a convicted pedophile ordered by the court to have no contact with anyone under the age of 18, it is a perfect pedophile's dream.

When he answered the knock on his front door last December, however, the severely distressed Inglis—gray slacks, expensive sweaters, face clearly shaved, greying hair perfectly combed—did not wait to discuss either the content of the view from his backyard. "No comments," he uttered before closing the door.

It was basically a carbon copy of what he had to say when Mr. Justice Charles Wallace of the Ontario Court asked him if he had anything to say prior to the pressing of his indictment. "No, Your Honour," Inglis replied. He let his lawyer, Todd White, do all the talking in court. Outside court, however, White is more vocal. Numerous calls were placed to his law office regarding the Inglis plea bargain and the subsequent sentence, but none was returned.

Don Wendy Leaver has been a member of the Toronto police for almost 30 years, and has spent the last decade with the sex crime unit. "If you received a call from police telling you that you are being arrested prior to a personal sexual assault and are about to be charged with sexual offenses against children, what would your reaction be?" she asked. "Would you get out loud? Would you say 'I'm a pedophile? Would you say 'I'm a pedophile?'"

"Not pedophile," she said. "Once that call comes, it's like a fat acceptance. And that's what was like with John Inglis. He was calm, and

he was cool—in if he was expecting our call."

John Inglis had left Cranbrook School by then, having become a successful stock broker with RBC Dominion, many of his clients reportedly being the missing, upper crust, well-heeled parents of some of the boys he had abused. It wasn't \$21,680 in basic money in today's dollars to send a student to Cranbrook School; the money in that great pool runs deep. The stock portfolio that Inglis managed for 19 years in today's world, via RBC Dominion, by Caldwell & McKinnon Wealth Management. Don Caldwell refused to discuss what was paid for the Inglis book upon Inglis's "retirement" after being charged, or the number of the clients with connections to Cranbrook School, or to Ridley College in St. Catharines, a private boys' school where Inglis taught prior to Cranbrook, and where one of the students was also named in court documents to a victim.

WHILE STATISTICS on hand-on-hand pedophiles are difficult to come by, a U.S. study of sexual abuse cases has estimated that a pedophile averages 245 victims in his lifetime. In Leaver's experience, those who usually come forward to report their abuse are the tip of the iceberg in terms of those abused.

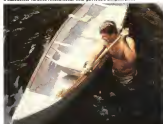
Whether Inglis's wife, Linda, a kindergarten teacher, knew of her husband's charges or his predilection for young boys is uncertain; she died after a battle with cancer only a month after Inglis got the phone call from Toronto police Det. Paul Gauthier, then Don Leaver's partner in the sex-crime unit, instructing him to investigate on who was best 15 charges involving nine victims. Inglis, who didn't marry until his late 40s, still has his St. Catharines phone number listed under his wife's Arnette's name under nine-two full-time after her death.

According to Leaver, Inglis was a "master seducer." He was well-kind," she said. "He

was considered one of the teachers who was 'soft.' A lot of the boys felt they could go speak with him. You could go to his [school] office and under if you wanted. He was charismatic. He was a 'hard' some man. He was approachable. He was their guidance counselor. He was their regular coach."

How Inglis managed to get away with what he did for so long, and why some of his victims warned others at Cranbrook School to steer clear of him, was not his cottage at Rapture Lake, it is explained by Leaver as simply being "the way it was" back in that era. "It was simply the times,"

INGLIS AT THE COTTAGE (below): The property has since been bought by a successful Toronto restaurateur who got it at a bargain price



THE BOYS, NONE OF WHOM HAD A LICENCE, DROVE THE CAR TO TORONTO



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK BOHROUSE FOR CNET TV

she said. "Every victim I spoke to believed they were the only one. Boys of that age—13, 14, 14-15 are a very vulnerable age. You're entering puberty. The person who does that to you is a person who has control and power over you. Who are you going to tell? Who's going to believe you? Will the other boys make fun of me? John Inglis had all the material, and he knew exactly what he was doing. He knew none of them would.

Then they grabbed the keys to both his car and his boat, and made their escape to the marina across the lake where Inglis had parked his car.

The keys to the boat were then tossed into the lake, and the boys drove Inglis' car the 250-plus km back to Toronto. Not one boy had a driver's licence. In fact, not one of them was old enough to legally drive Inglis' car, a station wagon purchased from a firm

back in the '70s and early '80s. Brown, 66 at the time he was charged, was eventually convicted and sentenced to three years in prison, with Mr. Justice Harry LaForme telling court that Brown "stole from [his victims] that which can never be returned—their innocence."

It was the series of Brown that propelled one of John Inglis' tragedies to finally come forward with his story, leading Crescent School, in co-operation with the police, to send out a letter to its alumni asking for assistance. And, one by one, the "boys" of Crescens began talking. "Boys" now in their thirties whose victimization at the hands of John Inglis had produced lifelong scars: sexual, psychological damage, sexual upheaval, drug abuse and alcoholism.

At Inglis' sentencing last April, Crown attorney Glen Giesbrecht was called the "highlighter" of two victim impact statements into the record. "I continue to work as this banking process," reads one, written by a young man whose surname is among the country's most prominent. "I hope this man gets the treatment he so desperately needs but hope he [Inglis] just how much to realize he is as destroyed. My childhood ended that night, and my life became a survival story, of all things, myself. I cannot know of the pain I have caused my parents or the headache they feel at knowing what has happened. I also cannot remedy the shame and I have looked for fear of getting too close to my own person. All I can do is move forward."

When that young man was a boy, his parents so trusted John Inglis that they allowed him to "babysit" overnight at their home when they went away on holidays, as well as provide private tutoring for their son.

The second victim impact statement came from a young man whose parents were also enamoured of John Inglis. They visited him often at his Regatta Lake retreat and even threw a big party for him when he married in the early '80s—unaware of the abuse he had inflicted on their son until his behaviour became more and more destructive.

This is what their son wrote in his statement to the court: "There has not been a day that has gone by since I was 14 that the memory of some aspect of my encounter with Mr. Inglis hasn't crossed my mind. It is only the last few years that I have allowed myself to believe that I was a victim. Prior to that I spent my entire teenage years, and most of my twenties, being angry with myself, blaming myself. I was depressed and incapable of forgiving myself for not having done more to protect myself from Mr. Inglis."



HIS DAD WAS ALSO IN THE HOT TUB, OBVIOUSLY TO HIS SON'S TORMENT

till, they were like babies, and he prepped upon that."

Documentary in the narrative film compiled by Leaver is an incident in which four Crescent School boys paid a summer visit to Inglis' cottage. The game plan at the cottage never varied. Inglis, who was rarely ever photographed there without a drink or a cigarette, would ply the kids with booze, men to the point of playing chicken tag, but you can't drinking games that often ended with the boys vomiting and passing out.

It was after they passed out that Inglis went to work. If they passed out on their backs, he would pull down their pants and fill them. If they passed out on their stomachs, they would often wake to find Inglis putting a finger up their anus while he masturbated.

In one particular incident, a boy, who woke to the horror of his head between his legs, pumped up, grabbed Inglis and, with the help of the other three students, locked him in one of the cottage's bedrooms.

It was later found out that Inglis had allowed their son to visit, was left in the parking lot of the Granite Club, the expensive private club across the street from Crescent School where many of the boys' parents were men—him—but not before it was broken into the wall a couple of times. And then the boys made a pact never to tell anyone about what had happened.

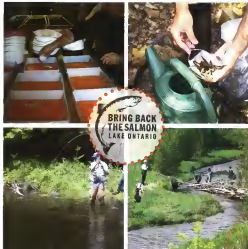
Years later, interviewed by Leaver, the "boys"—by now well into their thirties—were concerned about one thing and one thing only: "They worried about being charged with our theft," said Leaver. "Despite all the years that had passed, they were suddenly 14 years old again." Even today, one of the men did not want the story of the boat and the car to be told. "I would speak with my father," he said. "We promised never to tell."

John Inglis might have escaped his post of not for the case of Douglas Blower, a private-school teacher at Toronto's elite Upper Canada College, who was charged in 2004 with sexually assaulting students at that school

Erin Davis & Mike Cooper in the morning.

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"I no longer trust anyone. I had unclouded thoughts and fantasies," he continued. "The one friend I opened up to about the abuse couldn't handle it, and distanced himself. I felt alone, I felt isolated and unloved. I drank more and drank more with even social consequences. I poured my energies into my work and obliterated my feelings and thoughts. The next month, 15 years after the abuse, we died. I was full of abuse, guilt, fear and anger. I was a chain smoking, drug-addicted alcoholic who was coming apart at the seams, unable to feel at peace with myself."

"I have been clean for six years now," he concluded. "With the help of therapists, psychologists and psychiatrists, I have finally begun to feel better of myself and let go of my anger."

In an interview, the young man recalled being in the hot tub at Inglis' cottage and trap in reaching across the hot tub to "finger" his uncle with his toes—despite the fact the boy's father was also in the hot tub, drink in hand, oblivious to Inglis' blatant torment of his son.



household whose son had spent the summer at Camp Ponoka, and who saw the first hole sign up on the surrounding property while out building a canoe. "Thinking my niece in any way might be trafficking, but it's not," the restaurateur said. "No one was aware at the time of anything. John Inglis had done. The cottage seriously deserves to see better days."

IN REVENGEING John Inglis to 15 months' house arrest. Mr. Justice Villanovian orally described the abuse of the boys of Crescent School as "fortunately at perhaps the lower end of the scale involving sexual assault," and that it was "reassuring to know that the accused has put his alcohol problem behind him."

"The accused," stated the judge, "has expressed his guilt and remorse through his plea, as well as to his psychiatrist. I have no doubt that, in hindsight, the accused truly is remorseful for his actions and the harm that his actions have brought upon his former charges."

'THE NEXT DAY, VIRTUALLY, INGLIS PUT HIS COTTAGE UP FOR SALE'



HOUSE ARREST In St. Catharines, Ont., Inglis had to surrender before surrendering the deed.

"He was prone to the zone," the young man said. "He behaved like he was unaccountable."

Quiet and pragmatic, Eugene Lake is considered one of the jewels of the Niagara Highlands, with property values consistently on the rise as the Muskoka and the Haliburton run out of waterfront. It is the summer home of at least one Canadian rock star: Gray of Seven (artist A.). Canyon joined his famous Blue Heron on Baptiste Lake, among other works. The late David Milne was another world renowned artist who summered and painted on Baptiste.

Camp Ponoka, a high-end outdoor camp for boys, is also located on Baptiste Lake, although Leaver has no recollection of John Inglis fishing off that dock.

One day, in the summer of 1999, five years before he got his call from the Toronto police services unit and reluctantly surrendered at Toronto's St. Dennis, John Inglis received

an angry phone call from the mother of the boy who became a "chain smoking, drug-addicted alcoholic."

"I had finally woken up," the young man said. "My mother finally believed that John Inglis was what he was, and she threatened to expose him. The next day, virtually, he put his cottage up for sale."

It sold quickly that summer for the last gasp price of \$135,000, all inclusive. The four rooms, the house, the hot tub. All bought, as it turned out, by a successful Toronto restaurateur.

How John Villanovian had "no choice" of Inglis's remorse is a mystery because he never explained it in his sentencing. Nor did Inglis speak to it.

If remorse can be expressed through a guilty plea, or through words protracted by the presence of a psychiatrist's couch, then that is the real extent of the remorse John Inglis ever displayed. No one word of true remorse was ever publicly offered when the opportunity presented itself.

Not in court. Not when there was a crowd at his door. And certainly not to any of his victims. And he did have at least one chance.

The young man who found the hanging body of his brother and who himself was abused by Inglis finally returned the cottage to confront Inglis at his Toronto restaurant office. "I went to tell him that my brother hanged himself," the young man said. "His gaze roved at me blankly, as if I were trash walking through the door. I don't know what I was expecting him to say. This he was sorry perhaps? Not no. Instead, he looked at me almost reverently and said, 'Good, you know my wife is dying of cancer.' He could not have cared less about my brother's name. He expected me to feel sorry for him." ■

COLLAR OF THE WEEK



LOOKING FOR A PIX CAN LAND YOU IN ONE

When Paul White and Ryan Ogilvie turned to a pay phone in Pomona, Calif., last week, allegedly to call a drug dealer with an urgent order, they may have been in grave need, because they mistakenly dialed 911. When police arrived, they found the pair had a stolen car along with possible burglary tools and a broken meth pipe. "They admitted they were in a hurry to buy dope," says Sgt. Michael Givens. "We are told criminals are smart."

FEAR, FOLKLORE AND SIX FINGERS

A Southern novelist searches for her hidden Melungeon ancestors

BY BRIAN BETHUNE • Growing up in a Tennessee family in the 1950s and '60s, Lisa Alder thought she knew who she was and where she came from, genealogically speaking. But Alder certainly had no idea she could number Melungeons among her ancestors—she was not enough at the time in having heard of them at all, although not in a way likely to connect her Melungeons were even human. One day, after she'd been caught barging her little brother's teddy bear by a nurse from the upstairs bathroom, a grizzled, brown-robed babysitter told her what happened to wicked little girls like the Melungeons, the big-eyed, dark-skinned child swimmers, carry them off to their forest caves.

That may be of folklore is residue of the South's ancient racial divides, but it's scarcely more lurid than some of the more legends about one of America's most mysterious population pockets: A "tribal isolate" (in the poetic terminology of social scientists) of mixed European, African and Native Amer-

icans like the Melungeons, that are widely unknown among the surrounding white population. That's a new gripe for the controversy over their origins. In Alder, now a 61-year-old novelist, comes her fascinating memoir *Reckless: Telling of the Family Tree*, the Melungeons were eventually made in a society where men ruled everything. They had every reason to obscure non-white parts of their heritage—at times that meant the difference between slavery and freedom—or connect tales of Turkish ancestry. "If protecting their descendants from persecution was my ancestors' reason for silence and subterfuge," she writes after recalling the segregated water fountains at her childhood, "then I'm grateful."

Even the origin of their name sparks dis-



THE PRESIDENTS WITH DAUGHTER ALDER. The Melungeon poster boy?

pute. Most scholars derive from the French word *melange*, meaning mixture. Others, like Alder's third cousin Bruce Kesteven, who had his sixth fingers removed in childhood, opt for the Turkish explanation (many claim means carried into Turkish) or the English *dukes* (word *dukes*, meaning *dukes*—a case from their neighborhood).

When Alder has her DNA analyzed, she's astonished at the results: a full 42 percent of her derives from eastern Mediterranean ancestors, and the 17 percent admixture of Northern European genes is almost matched by the 13 percent from Native American sources. Maybe the Turkish story is true, she thinks, more importantly, the old racial divides were muddied then and now. "All the recent immigration that has supposedly changed America? It's just a layer on what's been a melting pot from the start!" ■

The man who lost himself

Jeff Ingram rebuilt his life after suffering total amnesia. Then it happened again.

BY NICHOLAS KÖRBER • On the morning of Sept. 6, 2006, Jeff Ingram, a balding 39-year-old with a coal patch and loud, brash monotone, said goodbye to his fiancée and left his home in Olympia, Wash., carrying no suitcase, one full of clothing, the other containing suitcase, one full of cash and a pink dress designed to be worn by a dog.

Jeff, a Canadian who planned to visit his parents in northern Alberta, would not let her sign for her car, a sported that became a signifier of his new life. Jeff, a friend of his, drove the car to his mother, Doris, who lived in his former home. On Oct. 22, Jeff arrived at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to greet Jeff, who had been discovered at a Denver, Colo., hospital, but who no longer knew her, but still recalled his mother's name, and who believed that hospital food, the only food he knew, was the height of culinary achievement.

This was Jeff's second bout of dissociative fugue—figue being the Latin for "to flee"—a rare psychological disorder characterized by amnesia and a compulsion to travel far from one's home life. "I thought to be brought on by trauma—financial trouble, loss of income, emotional worry—the condition often comes with maladjusting. Yes, like all cases of

amnesia, Jeff's story demonstrates how Jeff, easily balanced on the path of the mind that can be so easily as well as we. After a few weeks stay at a John Doe in a Denver psychiatric ward, authorities reunited Jeff with Penny, a woman who, far all their shared history, was not a stranger to him. On his first night at their Olympia home, Penny offered Jeff an empty room with a shaggy, disarming scene of him on the stairs had been "I just lost the option," she says. "He didn't want the option." Instead, they lay together in bed and slept.

His first experience of dissociative fugue began on Nov. 6, 1994, when Jeff, then a broker, left his home in Las Vegas, the primary of phone home, calling "Tompson" to withdraw the missing person report. It is the would not hear from him until nine months later, not long after Aug. 31, 1995, when Jeff regained consciousness in a Seattle, Wash., ambulance, the victim of a brutal beating. He had likely been robbed and held no identification. But tucked into the pages of a book he carried, hospital staff found a doctor's appointment card with a name and date that eventually led authorities to Tompkins. "They phoned me up and told me they had a John Doe who had

A LIFE INTERRUPTED Jeff Ingram never fully regained memory of his former existence

amnesia," Tompkins says. "I didn't even know what amnesia was. I had to look it up in the book."

Tompkins still shares some form of the memory of the first contact with Ingram, who had no idea who she was, and who hospital staff had kept strapped down for fear he would flee. "I told him that I loved him every day," she says. "It was very, very hard, but not knowing who I was." Jeff's memory loss didn't change then—"He was still my Jeff, right?" says Tompkins—nor, except for subtle discrepancies, did it connect to his knowledge. "He knew the grass was green but he



REUNITED Jeff prepared for a second time to Penny, they married on New Year's Eve

didn't know why." Tompkins told a reporter. "He knew the grass was called green and he knew how to do his math."

Though he never regained memory of the time before August 1995, Jeff's life unfolded with a surprising degree of normalcy. Within months of moving to Shore Lake, Ill., about 150 miles north of Addison, to recuperate with his parents, he had married and was working at a coffee shop. On the first anniversary of his waking in Seattle, Jeff, once again, he would never recall his pain and embraced by his efforts to do so, dressed in unusual company. "We gather here today," a story in the *Shore Lake Journal* later describes the proceedings begin, "to say goodbye to the former Jeffrey Allen Ingram." During the "service," Jeff slipped up a dead tree and replaced it with a living one. "Although I was not fortunate enough to know him, I was a friend of his, I wish to know him by looking him first and farewell," his friend, Dan Pollock, said during the rite.

In 2003, Jeff's computer game enthusiast, met Penny, a doll seller with the Washington state government, on a late January game day. A year and a half later, Jeff, who'd

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN HANDEL. COURTESY OF JEFF INGRAM

STILLHANGING

MELUNGENS JULY 7 07

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'I THOUGHT, THE BUNNY HUGGERS? THEKKK AND ANTI-ABORTIONISTS HAVE NEVER BEEN ON A TERRORIST LIST'—FILMMAKER CURT JOHNSON ON ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUPS TARGETED BY THE FBI

NAJIB RAZAK
THE MASTERS
OF DIRTY FIGHTING

The crane was banded, and so are the excursions. Last year, a fish-ion model was found near Kuala Lumpur, shot in the head. Who did it? The week. Mike.

JOHN EDWARDS CRYING UP TO WALL STREET

The man who portrayed himself as a foe of Wall Street didn't last long in a man of the people. In 2006, John Edwards gave a speech railing against "two economies in this country: one for wealthy sinners and then one for everybody else." This speech, of

MADONNA
HALF-PINT BODYBOARDS
TO THE RESCUE

In Malawi last year, Madonna received some bad publicity for adopting David Banda, an orphaned boy who turned out not to be an orphan at all—and then taking the boy home against the wishes of Malawi rights groups, who created a media storm of criticism toward her for when she sang music with

RICHARD BRANSON
AN ACTING CAREER
CUT SHORT BY A RIVAL

Last year, Virgin Atlantic Airways provided British and U.S. authorities with information that rival British Airways might have been involved in the price fixing of tickets and fuel surcharges. It's taken some time, but BA seems to be getting its revenge—in a costly way. It has resumed the inflight champagne of *Virgin Atlantic Airways*.

NINA WANG
LITTLE SWEETIE AND
THE FENG SHUI MASTER

When Hong Kong's richest woman died earlier this month she left a US\$4.2-billion legacy. But Nina Wang, known as "Ladies' Sweetie" for an endearing personality and pyramidal hair, also left two different wills. One left money to a charity fund she'd set up with her husband, Teddie, who was a well-

CURT JOHNSON
WHEN WORDS SPEAK
LOUDER THAN ACTORS

From new documentaries showing this week at *Tennessee's Hot Docs Festival*, *Because*, *More* & *More*.

**SHARON
MICHALOWSKI
PAYING FOR OVERTIME**

When she was hired as a retail supervisor in Winnipeg for the clothing company Mynord International, Sharon Michalowski probably didn't realize she'd be asking one of the fundamental questions of employment: why don't immigrants get paid overtime? Michalowski said she was paid about twice as much as her non-immigrant coworkers, but less than half as much as her Canadian counterparts.

SHAWN BRANT A BLOCKADE LEADER HAS OMA IN MIND

The Mohawk blockade that stranded 3,900 train passengers travelling east of Toronto last week was not Shawn Brant's first choice. But in his efforts to help the Mohawks of Tyendinaga section land where quarry operates, he saw little choice. He cites a Senate report estimating it will take the government over 300 years

the government's new policy of land reform. Mirawille says, the quarry is "contaminating the community's water. It considers past blockades like mine and copper with successful despite tragic outcomes, but the 42-year-old father says the blockade short when he thought a confrontation with police might erupt. "People frustrated," he said. "Not all have the ability to convey

2. But this isn't good for all Marquis managers because introduced legislation effectively would work excluding most managers from paid overtime.

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THE BACK PAGES

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film

Time is a worm...
It's been 24 years since
Canadians have seen Bob and
Doug McKenize, the buffoon-
ish, air-tailing brothers who
Rak Morano and Dave Thomas transformed
from throwaway SCTV filler to a *comedian*
franchise. And you'll want to be ahead to strip
as the beer goggles to solve the blow.

The topics and parties are the same, or at
least lovingly and expensively recreated;
always convinced that those clothes couldn't
possibly have any real life in them. Morano
and Thomas have thrown away the costumes
at least three times now. But no amount of
makeup will turn the clock back to the early
1980s. Sitting in a darkened studio, watch-
ing the rushes from last week's closed set
reunion in Toronto, even Thomas seems a
bit stoked about "Hook up my face and Rak's
eyebrows and I know it's time to quit." He
tries on a few jokes about quagmire cheese
and the govt of Iran (he's almost 58, Morano
just turned 54), finally pulling the apoplectic
comparisons—a pair of pumpkins left on
the porch for three weeks after Halloween.
"We've made this franchise enough. It's just
not anymore."

But if this really is the end for Bob and
Doug—they have, after all, already survived
robos, hockey goons, amnesia in a giant
tank of ether, a lady film critic, and chiseling
Hollywood studios—at least the legend will
be saved. Bob & Doug McKenize's *Two Four*
Anniversary, a one-hour tribute, to be broadcast
on CBC later this spring (probably an
after the May long weekend), will be filled
with celebrity eulogies. Former prize mis-
tress Paul Martin has capped an introduction
plan for Canadians to finally and firmly
bury the stereotypes ("I'll never forget the
four-year-old girl in Buenos Aires who looked
up at me with her pouty eyes and asked,
'Where's your butt you know?'"). Ben Stiller
talks about standing in line for two hours at
a L'Oréal Counter round robin to get Bob and
Doug's fragrance. Miss Gunning, Tim Green
and Dave Foley talk about the influence the
characters had on their own work. Nogens
wins are still under way with Denis Moore:
on an interview about how she was passed

TAKE OFF, EH! EH?

**Bob and Doug
McKenize are back,
maybe for the last
time, for a 'two-four'
anniversary**

BY JONATHAN GATEHOUSE

over for the female lead in the McKenize
brothers' series. (The part went to Toronto
actress Lynne Griffin.)

The tribute also promises a short comedy
history lesson for the many who have forgotten
just how huge Bob and Doug once were. Born
out of a creative reaction to the CBC's demand
for more "Canadian content" on the proudly
Canuck SCTV, the McKenize brothers' free-
form two-minute riff on smokes, beer and
back bacon caused a national sensation. An
appreciation begins with the scripter's comment
with hundreds of screenings, tongue-wearing
"toasts." Taped in Toronto that dawn the Don
Valley Parkway in thousands of well-lit
bars staged on impromptu parade.

And for those who have never witnessed
dinner shows and the music of Giddy Lee,
the special offers a rare, if visually distressing
one. Morano and Thomas occupy a pitch
between the beer cases in front of the cheery
Goat White North backdrop, channelling
their inner boozers. Like the original SCTV
shows, there was no script. "It was like trying
to act as an old-school movie," says Thomas.
The one usually the "reps" came. A riff on
disgraced donors featuring an on-screen golf
club. The NHL's attempts to attract an Ameri-
can audience. An explanation of why every
one in the movie *Predator*, except Carl Weathers
and, just because acting governor Alvin, Doug's

joke about "happy-headed bastards" ended up
on the cutting-room floor.

The purpose of occasion for the reunion is
a celebration of the "two four" anniversary
of *Scruffy Brew*, the feature film the pair
released in 1983 at the height of Bob and
Doug mania. In Canada, where their fame
had already been cemented by the TV show
and a clutch of comedy albums (which sold
a massive 375,000 copies domestically,
and 400,000 more south of the border), the
movie was a bit of an afterthought. But in the
U.S., where it will regularly appear on TV, it
lives on as a cult classic, functioning for
a generation of drunken frat boys and their
sole source of knowledge about Canada.

But Thomas, who is executive-producing
the special in conjunction with Toronto's
McKenize Films, isn't taking his and Morano's
notoriety for one last look and a beer can—money.
When the pair signed on to co-write, direct
and act in the 37 million-dollar production for
MGM, they thought they were getting 50 per
cent of the net profits. The film rights have
since changed hands twice, but they've never
seen a dime. "I've always wanted to trade the
bustards, but it's too difficult with these stu-
dios and all this time," says Thomas. The
hops in that manner might make Warner,
the current owner, twice as useful, in advance
of a planned 14th anniversary DVD.

The McKenize brothers have always been
a most blessing for their own. SCTV was
known for its raucous, satirical and devastating
open-microphone Montreal comedy. "Nobody
knew it at the time," says Thomas. "They called
Walker Constance and Bob Hope. It'd sell the
chaps, allowing us, on the afternoon, a
slightly alarmed rendition of the comedy
legend to illustrate a story of a late-life life."



PHOTO BY JONATHAN GATEHOUSE

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OSCAR-WINNING actress Julia Christie (left) stars, along with Gordon Pinsent, in Sarah Polley's new film *Away From Her*

Goodbye to that jagged little pill

A mellower Sarah Polley plays parent to some elder icons for her stunning directorial debut

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON • Sarah Polley is ordering a drink at Starbucks when she notices a 19th anniversary edition of *North Atlantic's Jagged Little Pill* CD for sale on the counter. She browses with laughter. "Can you believe that? A commemorative edition?" When that *Alone* album first came out, Polley was 16, and undergoing her own rite of passage—that year she shed her child star chrysalis by playing an incest victim in Atom Egoyan's *The Secret Hour*, and as an anti-corporate rebel against the rule of oligarchy, she proved to be quite the jagged little pill for Hollywood to swallow.

Polley has mellowed. Now 38, the actress is a director. And with her first feature, *Away From Her*, poised for release across North America, she's in a unique position. Female filmmakers are few enough. But none mother young actors anywhere who has received herself as an acclaimed writer-director-critic-mom as who has cast two Oscar winners (Julia Christie and Olympia Dukakis) in a *Revenge* debut that's already attracting more early Oscar buzz of any ones.

Recalls *Away From Her*'s first worded audience and critics at the Toronto International Film Festival, Polley is still trying to explain why someone her age would be drawn to a story of elder romance and adultery. Based on *The Rose Came Over the Mountain* by Alice Munro, *Away From Her* is the delicate tale of a 50-year marriage that's undone by unseen—after visiting a physician's home, a woman afflicted by Alzheimer's disease (Christie) loses all memory of her husband (Gordon Pinsent), and bonds with a much younger, to the convenience of his wife (Dukakis). "I'd thought about what's best for my image," says Polley. "There isn't the story

I would have chosen. Any filmmaker and it is supposed to use a lot of ground-breaking camera tricks and do something that's supposed to suppress her generation."

When asked about her moves last year, Polley told me she'd been drawn in the way because, at the start of her marriage to film editor David Wharmby, she was wondering just where a lifetime of low might lead. That at a recent screening of her film, she ran into a former co-star from *Dead to Arise*. "Both our parts died of cancer fairly close to each other," says Polley, who lost him at 11. "She came out of the film and said, 'I had such a strong reaction to it because watching my dad lose my mom, and I figured that's why you made it.' I had no idea. But the most affecting emotional experience of my childhood was watching my dad lose the love of his life, his life, his life in the *Days of Heaven*—watching him find out what divorce meant. And what I loved about this story is that it was from an older woman's point of view."

Directing is not unlike parenting. And as Polley found herself in charge of veteran actors, she learned to be proactive. "If the whole world is crashing down, not everybody needs to know it," she says. "But a week before we started shooting, I had this memory attack. I remember walking in there to Julia's house and just tripping out. I was like, 'I don't know

what I'm going to do do.' You're older and stronger than me and you just have to help me!" She's a great listener. The next day we went back to being warm and cheerful. And she never told it against me."

Christie says Polley deployed "a certain determination" on the set. "She's wonderful, like a wolf," she told me. "You think, 'I can talk all day long and she'll listen all day long, but she's going to do what she wants.'"

Although *Longtime*, the U.S. distributor of *Away From Her*, will focus on Oscar campaigns around Christie—a semi-retired legend in a comeback role—it's Pinsent who carries the picture. And he beautifully restored, heartbreaking performance as a novelist *Pines* 1.76, has been travelling the world to promote the movie. "It's so hilarious," says Polley, "to see American thinking they've discovered Gordon Pinsent."

As Polley prepares to do a final buzz of U.S. publicity, followed by a main at the jury of the Cannes Film Festival, she's turning down *Shilly* word scripts and writing a new screenplay of her own. "It's about young people seeking agency," Polley notes determined to keep a level head. But in an uncharacteristic flash of irony, Polley claims her greatest gift remains unaccomplished. That night, for a 40th birthday, she will impersonate North Atlantic in a karaoke bar. "It's my greatest talent by far," she boasts. "The trick is dark pants. How would a genius sing? Mine is from the *Orange Valley*, and she says like a singer." ■



WE'RE STALKING: HEATHER MILLS
Her brazen mix with legends for *Jack* beats out Paul McCartney last week, astonishing the former Beatle with a lot of her rapacious. They alleged that Mills' staff of 13—her personal assistant has an estimated net worth of \$45,000 a week to maintain. Meanwhile, her ongoing feud with the *Starry* half a subliminal when she fell at the end of a cabaret routine. Mills laughed off the mishap and appeared to blame the oil on her partner's chest.



(SHOW) therefore I am: A new anti-consumerist book fails to tackle how much we value self-expression, individuality and democracy

Once, there was a Good Capitalism

He wants to fix consumerism, but this author may be the most glibbly consumer of us all

BY ANDREW POTTER • You really can't go wrong denouncing the buying of things. The public appetite for books, films, and other forms of anti-consumerist art is apparently limitless, even as we find ourselves wading through a deluge of both of semi-useless gadget and gizmos. There is one problem, though: the anti-consumerists game down from a very limited deck of cards. Once you've criticised capitalism (and its preposterous advertising) for turning the masses into housewifery, shopping-addicted drones, there is little more for anyone else to do except say it again, only more so.

Which brings us to Benjamin (Jillard or McNeill) Barber's new book, *Conquest*. For most of its almost 350 pages, Barber serves up the usual rehearsed pantheons of urban myths, economic fallacies, and third-worldist nostrums for the mass of the masses. For the half-dozen readers who have been in cyberspace for the past 30 years, let us rehearse the argument: once upon a time there was a Good Capitalism, which was based upon a Protestant ethic that valued hard work, integrity, earnestness, and self-reliance. The Good Capitalism was able to create a healthy balance between work and leisure and between private interest and the public good. But this capitalism got too productive, and as the capacity to make or consume the population's ability to consume it, it was forced to invent a Bad Capitalism rooted in a consumer culture that was to make up the surplus.

Barber traces the essence of the Bad Capitalism to the ethos of urbanisation that makes things that are "easy over hard," "simple over complex," and "fast over slow." Having successfully related the masses to a possible stage, the capitalists are now pushing the

logic of markets into some once considered part of the commonsense. Everything public has been privatised, every space consumerised, and even our alternatives have succumbed to the logic of branding.

In this torrent of cynicism, Barber is actually right about a few things. There is a lot of advertising about, and much of it is highly annoying. Many young people do seem to have turned away from the duties of citizenship in favour of the floating fashions of global consumerism. And, yes, we do live in a culture of marketed adolescence, where tattoos and piercings share a cultural space in which 12-year-olds engage in crowd battles of group-identity while 30-year-olds stage public pillow fights in the financial district.

It is one thing to analyse these phenomena, another to know why they exist, and on the latter score Barber is dismal. In particular, he is extraordinarily reluctant to confront the obvious: that consumerism is created by consumers, and a great deal of what goes on in our culture could be understood as the consequence of competitive consumption between individuals. But this just isn't done by self-styled progressives like Benjamin Barber, not when there are capitalists to pillory.

Which is not bad, because when it comes to telling us where we should go from here, he has nothing helpful to offer. At various

points, Barber waters his words with the promise that eventually he'll get around to suggesting some things we can do to reverse *consumerism* (the flagrant of the money-grubbers). This amounts to little more than rubber-stamped hand-wringing at what that occupies a total of 21 pages in the book.

Barber's big mistake is that he's fallen for the advertising. Look, he says, I'm not paid to read, I'm simply paying attention to what the marketers say. He's right. The branding guru will tell you they're in the business of engineering identities, of manufacturing desire. Can they actually do it? Hardly.

With the demise of all social hierarchies and status symbols, the most effective way of signalling our taste and values is through what we consume. Any serious proposal for the consumerism has to tackle this head-on. One possibility is to bring both temporary limits to consumer opportunities and to encourage anti-consumerism. Materialistically, we could listen to the economist Robert Frank (author of *Luxury Fever*) and implement a maximum, strictly progressive consumption limit on all goods. Either way, paralytic anti-capitalism and half-baked cultural analysis won't help. We live in a consumer society because we have a market economy and because we regard individuality, democracy and self-expression, values Barber says he is trying to protect. As long as we fail to grasp this fact, books like *Conquest* will contribute to the very problem they are trying to solve. ■

FINALLY, A BOOK ABOUT...THE GREAT PYRAMID

Probably no other structure in human history has inspired as many theories as the great pyramid of Giza, the oldest (at 4,500 years) and best preserved of the seven wonders of the ancient world. In *The Great Pyramid* (Corgi/Kellogg UP), archaeologist John Romer dissects its construction, offering a plausible explanation of how so monumental a task—no fewer than 2.5 million 60-ton blocks were used—could be accomplished at the dawn of civilisation.



JOHN ROMER



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help

Hey!!!!!!

I hear you're FIRED!!!! Yikes... :(((

CONVEYING EMOTION, handling a delicate situation—all these challenges are usually better undertaken with the human voice.

Yes, you can get that message back

Two editors offer some much-needed navigation through the wilds of email

BY JULIA KURTENBERG • You're probably well acquainted by now with the kind of social faux-pas and career disasters that can occur thanks to email. You send a group of friends and nobody gets back to you. Oh my God, no one! You go! Or you write a note, some letter and you get it back a week later. For some much-needed navigation through the wilds of email, Jennifer David Shipley and Will Schwalbe really is "The Essential Guide to Email for Office and Home." Shipley is the managing editor of the *New York Times*. Schwalbe is editor in chief of *Hypertext Books*.

"We wrote this book to figure out why email has such a tendency to go awry," their theory? "Just a tiny thing. If you don't consciously insert some tone into an email, the message will become a black screen onto which the reader projects his own fears, prejudices and attitudes."

"We're emailing a stranger, they advise. "Keep your distance." If you're emailing "Auntie Teresawhite," for instance, don't write "Dear Auntie." "If someone in our family/family would have taken the time to wish you a happy birthday, you'd be back home, using full names and honorifics," they suggest. "Once you've made the move to first names, however, it's a mistake to go back to more formal address. It clearly implies a cooling of the relationship."

Because we use it for both informal and formal occasions, "email is the hardest written medium of all," they claim. We email for too quickly, and the speed of how fast we send and respond usually gets on our nerves.

"On email, people aren't quite themselves: they are angry, less sympathetic, more easily wounded, even more, grumpy and duplicitous."

There are times, notes the authors, when you

craving to hear "Email has largely replaced the phone call, but not every phone call should be replaced," they write. "But, conveying emotion, handling delicate situations, noting the waters—all these challenges are usually better undertaken with the human voice."

If you hear of the death of a person via email, it's the authors' advice to acknowledge the news by email, but tell the sender you will follow up with a card. Likewise, pay attention to constructions such as don't and can't. "The word 'don't' is a warning, the phrase 'do not' is both a warning and a reprimand. For instance, 'Do not make extra copies of the report' would probably be better served by a 'don't,' unless you mean to suggest there will be dire consequences for doing so."

Julia Kurtenberg, an executive recruiter, advises never checking a person's references by email. "Her reasoning? When she's on the phone, a pause or a strained voice in response to a question about work habits can cause her to think at once: 'Oh my God, never did the man she's been given.' Another rule: 'Never forward any email without permission, and assume everything you write will be forwarded.'"

Subject lines should be used and kept as brief. Avoid subject lines such as "Great news," "Tomorrow!" "Quick question." A useful line might be "Dear [name]" or "Hi [name]." Good

examples included: "The email where I am is currently being used as if it were a text message, and rightly so, say the authors. For instance, 'The meeting is at 4:00' can be the same email and list in the subject line. If you do this, it's a courtesy to add EOM (End of message) after your burst of information." Also, avoid the time of day when sending emails. "Email between nine and five, Monday through Friday," they write. "Loss of email programs can be set for times of release. In some current programs, it's either Options or Message-Change Options."

AOL Webmail now offers the very helpful Unsend feature, which allows you to remove or modify a message until the point when the recipient opens it. As for signing off—'Yours Truly,' 'All best' or no sign-off at all—'signing off' the sender is the safest route, advise the authors. If someone signs off 'Warmly' and you sign off 'Sincerely,' be aware that your sender will feel a chill.

Measuring the length and brevity of the sender's email is another courtesy. If you don't have time to respond in kind to a friend's lengthy email, explain so tenderly. "On the run" or "Busy" is fine.

Finally, when you've got bad news, deal with it quickly. Former head of General Electric Jack Welch responds to emails with an absolute, "There's just no way I can do that, but good luck." This is a generous kindness that a "maybe" that's never going to happen, he says. ■



MOST IMPROVED LINDSAY LOHAN

After being dropped again last year by a movie director for being taken as a not being there at all, Lohan admitted last week she'd been "a bit irresponsible." Since then, the starlet says things with her have become so improved that she's become a kind of perfectionist. "I wish my friends and family saw me as I am. I feel like they're safe," she says. "Most of my friends have left me, I've just seen everything collapse. They're all safe without me."



CHERIE'S BOUTIQUE'S ADRIE PROTEAU with a 50-lb. block of Ottawa Valley butter. Butter like this isn't always available, he says.

Addicted to smuggled-in butter

If you think buying the unsalted variety is as good as it gets you're missing out big time

BY JACOB REISLER • While the pace of culinary coming-of-age in Ottawa seems astonishingly slow, we have all become ever more fastidious in our quest for a better product in our pantry of staples. First, there was olive oil, if which everyone who knows what's what now sticks at least three or four grades, each regarded a different purpose. Then there was salt, where a salad and butter gave way to 50 lb. de Gouda, fleur de sel de Gaspésie, Maldon and then that pink stuff from Hawaii. Nowadays the pantry shelves around an even more impressive staple: butter.

Yes, it's been only last year it was good enough to replace the unsalted Lacanville over the salted. But if you're stopped by a glaze last week and caught upon the over-lad fridge door you will have found seven different brands on hand, every one of them packing more flavour and more fat than any, some locally produced, some from Europe, and two of them illegal, unexported butter smuggled in from France hidden under a pile of Centrum bars, as if it were unobtainable in his experience the carbamate from Normandy is far more addictive.

If like my butter, I like it a lot, but I have a few chills out there where problems with the staff run even deeper than mine. "Butter is fantastic," says Bob Howland, pastry chef at Langdon Hall, the lovely Irish-Itali-Chinese property in Cambridge, Ont. "It dresses and it becomes a solid, but it's also liquid, and it melts in your mouth." Howland's sweetrack can only be in the version that he takes the trouble to make his own. "When I get to the last case, it develops a cheap quality," he laments, says of a phenomenon I have observed with my own Langdon Hall supply. "The butters, serving it sometimes only if it's

okay—I say it's perfect! That's the way it's supposed to be!"

Indeed, spread a generous smear over a good piece of toast and you cannot believe what you've been missing. Our standard commercial supply has no flavour to speak of when you compare it to this. Or that creamy variety Piedmontese from Dogana Occelli, best known for its ricottas and ribbles cheeses, available at my local cheese-monger, the Cheese Boutique in Toronto, for mere \$11.99 for 150 g. "If you're a foodie, and you want to make tuffin butter, or fry a steak, or some good eggs, butter like this isn't a luxury—it's a necessity," says Cheese Boutique manager Adrian Proteau, who stocks three podgiest butters along with the 400 odd cheeses in his inventory.

Aside from the hand-sunged Italian variety wrapped up in white paper, he sells two from the Ottawa Valley (where production is one from cows, the other from goats, a white butter which I find lovely and very sticky to a regular butter for a nice touch).

What's sadly absent from his shelves—and what I am obliged to smuggle in—are the well-connected Toronto-based smugglers—the legendary butters of France: St. Leger, St. Made, from Normandy, and Earth, from the Lacanville, for which the local going rate is now \$13.99 per 250 g and worth every cent.

The French consider these two butters good enough to qualify for their own appellation d'origine contrôlée, but here they are illegal because they are made from raw unpasteurized cream. But more so, and you will see that it is clearly the French, and not us, who are into something here.

The proof is not just the flavour, but also the purity. Its properties in cooking are exceptional, and this quality is easily demonstrated by the simple process of clarification. Melt the French and Italian butters and pour them into a glass vessel and when they separate into their constituent parts the water content is inconceivable, the milk solids minimal. The same is true of the butter from Langdon Hall, and while it is a lovely smooth texture from the farm, in the Ottawa Valley, they still fare far better than all the shelf butters, of which Ontario varieties fare particularly badly. "Ottawa butter is a-c-u-t," says the Alton chef Marc Thériault, owner of Bistro & Bakery Thériault in Toronto. "Sometimes the water content is so high you can't even make butter from it."

The local product for baking and you have trouble—especially with croissants or pastries or chocolate and pastries of that bakery life. Because simply put, the water content can run from 18 to 20 per cent, and the purity that results is sticky and chewy instead of soft and buttery. Which on a personal note must be why we now have butter struggles in our shops and I have seen a similar variety in my fridge. ■



TODAY'S SPECIAL... BENTO BOX ART

Artisically competitive Japanese mothers are creating bento-box lunches for their children to take to school that look like pictures. Using containers and recipes to create the edible pictures from egg, potato, cheese and seaweed, mothers have received media attention for pictures of the bento box fluffy, along with snowflakes, fireworks and even Mount Fuji, all of them completely edible. The five names on his upward cookbooks for bento box artists.

PHOTO: JEFFREY JAY FRIEDMAN

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ALEX

2004-2007

He was 'high-spirited, play-oriented' and bred to save soldiers' lives in dangerous places like Afghanistan

Alex was born in Holland in 2005, the son of two pure-bred Belgian Malinois. He was handsome and athletic, but he was not bred for his looks. Although they are disallowed in breeding dogs by the American Kennel Club, in Europe Malinois are raised very specifically to be dogs of war. They are highly alert, full of life, fearless and valuable. Last November, American 82 Airborne Division soldiers in a company that currently consists of about 10 heavily-armed dogs to both the Canadian and the American military in Afghanistan, paid US\$8,000 for Alex. "There are lots of reasons why we buy dogs imported from Germany and Holland," says operations and logistics manager Rodger Lowe, an ex-branch equal police officer and dog handler in Afghanistan from November 2005 to November 2006. "Here in North America, people want a more docile house pet. The dog that shows up your couch, that runs down your fence, that smells like your children's toys, those are the dogs we want."

Which is not to say Alex was vicious, he was high-spirited and play-oriented. "The houses in our training area, you find her favourite toy and you keep an eye on him while he works to retrieve it," Rodger says. Alex's favourite toy was a tennis ball. He would play around the training facility in Florida chasing one until he nearly dropped from exhaustion. That made him easy to train as a bomb sniffer.

American 82 trains all its dogs with expectations of play. It does not use strict obedience or any form of punishment like collars that pinch a dog's neck or shock it. Alex's training simply placed him in tennis ball and a small field of explosives, such as black powder or dynamite or TNT, where he could see it but not touch it. "At the same time as he is retrieving tennis ball, he is sniffing all the odours of the explosives," Rodger says. "Now he is associating those odours with the ball. And then we get to a point where we take the tennis ball out and wherever he comes to the area where he smells the explosives, he sits. The trainer will come from behind him and toss the tennis ball at the dog, so the dog knows, okay, I smell the explosives, I sit, my ball pops out at me."

Alex had one other impressive physical quality—he had a long snout. Rodger explains that dogs' snouts have new spots row of scent hairs. As the dog sniffs an odour, it is passed from hair follicle to hair follicle and as each, it is absorbed by the brain. An acute sniffer dog like Alex could sniff a drop of contamination in an Olympic-sized swimming pool full of water.

In December, when he was about 2½ years old, American 82 sent Alex to Kandahar, where he was assigned to a Canadian reconnaissance unit. Rodger was there to get him up to speed, and Alex had another trainer before his regular handler, Shaun Parker, took over as primary handler. Rodger says that according to their contract with both the Canadian and the U.S. military, their dog handlers are all former policemen or former military men. (He will not say which Shaun was, nor will he reveal any other details about him.) He does say Shaun and the dog had a close relationship, working side by side under dangerous circumstances every day. They were both very fit, but Alex's entire working career would have lasted only two more years. Shaun planned to take him home when the dog was retired at age five.

On Tuesday, March 20, according to two separate reports (one of them from the Canadian Forces) that Rodger has read, Alex and Shaun were out in front of the Canadian unit, clearing a roadway for improved explosive devices planted by the Taliban. They had already located two IEDs powerful enough to kill a man in a Humvee. Then they moved to another location. The Canadians were trying to recover a Coyote surveillance vehicle that had struck a mine and gone off a road. Their section commander, Sgt. Sheldon Horvitz, called for Alex and Shaun to inspect the area. "Alex was sniffing an IED," Rodger says, "which he stepped on the trigger before he was able to alert." The bomb went off. Alex was killed immediately. Sgt. Horvitz was wounded and Shaun was very badly injured. He cannot speak about the incident, Rodger says. He has just been moved out of a neurological intensive care unit in a U.S. hospital.

BY BARBARA BIGHTON



BOREDOM IS THE VILLAIN.



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